



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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4 KIDS AMONG 27 KILLED IN RAJKOT FIRE

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

AT least 27 people, including four children under 12 year, were killed in a massive fire at a gaming zone in Gujarat's Rajkot city on Saturday, police said. The death toll is likely to go up further.

When the fire broke out, over 30 children and their parents were believed to be

trapped inside TRP game zone on Kalavad Road in the city, according to eyewitnesses. The source of the blaze was an explosion in the air conditioning unit possibly triggered by a short circuit, they said.

"So far we have confirmed the death of 27 persons in the fire incident. The bodies are charred beyond recognition and hence their identification is difficult," said Assistant

Commissioner of Police Radhika Bharai.

Most bodies were completely charred making it difficult to identify them. Police Commissioner Raju Bhargav said, "I cannot confirm the cause of the fire; it requires probe."

Rajkot Collector Prabhav Joshi said the Fire Control Room received a call around 4.30 pm regarding the blaze. Fire safety personnel faced

difficulty in dousing it as it was windy, said a Rajkot Fire Officer. Besides, a temporary structure inside the gaming zone collapsed, compounding the difficulty in the rescue effort, the fire official added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief at the loss of lives in the incident and said the local administration is working to provide help to those affected.



The TRP game zone in Rajkot on fire | x

BODIES CHARRED BEYOND RECOGNITION

- "The fire caused the collapse of the structure. Debris is being cleared," Rajkot Collector Prabhav Joshi said
- Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel said a Special Investigation Team will probe the fire accident. The state government announced an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh for the dead and ₹50,000 for injured people

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GUJARAT GOVT ORDERS FIRE SAFETY AUDIT

Following the tragedy, the Gujarat government directed all gaming zones across the state to cease operations. Comprehensive inspections, encompassing fire safety equipment and protocol, will be conducted at all game zones. Likewise, the Maharashtra Congress demanded that its state government conduct a fire safety audit of gaming zones and malls

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Activist files private complaint against Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A private complaint has been filed against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his alleged hate speech in Rajasthan against the Muslim community.

Engineer and human rights activist Ziaurrahman Nomani of Bengaluru filed the complaint with the registry of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court on May 23.

The complaint has been listed for hearing on May 28. The 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court (the special court for trial of cases against sitting as well as former MPs/MLAs triable by magistrate) will take a call on whether the complainant has made a prima facie case or not and proceed further. P3

Parents to be booked if minors caught driving

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THINK twice before allowing your minor children to ride or drive vehicles. If any minor is caught riding or driving vehicles, his/her parents will be held responsible and sent to jail.

The parents will be booked under non-bailable Sections of the Juvenile Justice Act.

At the monthly police-public meeting, city police commissioner B Dayananda said giving vehicle keys to under-aged children is as good as giving a weapon to them. "Either he will kill himself or will kill someone else. All of you must be aware of what has happened in Pune, where a minor boy killed two persons while driving a high-end car. After this, the Pune police decided to book the minor's parents under the Juvenile Justice Act. The same will be followed here. Citing the Pune case, parents should educate their minor children about the dangers involved in riding or driving vehicles," he added.



(From left) President Droupadi Murmu, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, Union minister S Jaishankar, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi show their inked fingers after casting their ballots in the sixth and penultimate phase of general elections, in New Delhi on Saturday | P1

62% turnout in crucial sixth phase

LOADS OF VIPs EXERCISE FRANCHISE IN DELHI • ANANTNAG-RAJOURI SEAT RECORD

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

CLOSE to 62% voter turnout was recorded for the sixth and penultimate phase of the Lok Sabha elections held on Saturday. As many as 58 seats across eight states and Union Territories (UTs), including all 10 seats of Haryana and seven of Delhi, voted in this round of polling.

Several politicians and prominent personalities, including President Droupadi Murmu, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, Union minister S Jaishankar, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi,

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were among others who cast their votes in the national capital.

Following the pattern of Mumbai, Delhi too registered a low turnout of 58.03% despite the Election Commission of India urging the voters to shun the apathy and exercise their voting rights.

Stakes are high for the BJP-led NDA as it won 40 seats out of the 58 in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Though the other INDIA bloc partners won five seats in 2019, the Congress scored a duck.

The contest in Delhi and Haryana is crucial for the Opposition parties as they hope to increase the tally in these states. The contest in the national capital is being keenly watched as the INDIA bloc parties — the Congress and the AAP are taking on the BJP. While the BJP swept all seven seats of Delhi in 2014 and 2019 and is looking for a hat-trick, the Opposition is fighting tooth and nail. The AAP is contesting four seats while the Congress has fielded candidates in three seats as per their seat-sharing agreement.

While the BJP won all 10 seats in Haryana in 2019, the Congress is hoping to make a dent this time due to factors such as anti-incumbency and the anger among the farmers and wrestlers against the BJP. Voting was also held on 14 seats of UP, eight seats each of Bihar and West Bengal, six in Odisha, four in Jharkhand and one in J&K. While Bengal recorded the highest turnout at 79.96%, that for the J&K's Anantnag-Rajouri stood at 54.46%, its highest in 40 years. UP's turnout was 54.03% and Haryana 61.63%, according to the EC's app at 1 am on Sunday. P10

EXPRESS READ

SIT, Union and state govts know where Prajwal is, says minister Rajanna

Bengaluru: Cooperation and Hassan district in-charge Minister KN Rajanna on Saturday said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and the state and central governments know JDS MP Prajwal Revanna's whereabouts. "The SIT, state government and Centre know the place and in whose house he (Prajwal) is holed up and also his movements since he is an MP. He can be arrested and passport cancelled immediately..." he told reporters | P4

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KAAYASHRI RAO @Mangaluru

NESTLED in the Canara High School campus in Dongarkeri, Mangaluru, is a quaint-looking house-like structure. The building is a repository of historical, heritage-filled stories, the likes of which one would never hear elsewhere. This relatively unknown museum is called the 'Mahatma Gandhi Museum'.

But, like museum director Payyanur Ramesh Pai corrects, the name of the museum differs from the hundreds of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Museums, because this one was inaugurated by the Father of the Nation himself, during his visit to Mangaluru in 1934. It was Mahatma Gandhi's third and last visit to the coastal city. While preliminary work on the museum began in 1917, it was officially inaugurated in 1919 as a museum with a library.

The foundation of Sree Krishna Mandira near the campus was laid by Gandhiji himself, with a silver trowel gifted by local merchants. The trowel is still on display at the museum, with its tale recounted several times to visitors.

The exhibits are a microcosm of metropolitan museums, but the familiar suddenly turns magical, when backstories come tumbling out. Unlike most recreations of Mohenjo Daro's 'Bearded Priest', the one in this museum has a colourful past. This statue is one among a few copies that were made immediately after the original excavation, displayed by pre-Independence Rawalpindi Museum, and later brought into this museum.

A treasure trove

Museum director Pai talks about the difference between his role and that of a curator. "A curator is someone trained in museology, who knows how to treat and maintain materials in the museum, whether it is paper, metal, wood or anything else. I am just an enthusiast," he said. Apart from Pai, there is a woman staffer to maintain this mausoleum of artefacts.

A former banker, Ramesh Pai is a seasoned traveller and museum enthusiast who has visited museums across the globe, like the ones at Portland, USA, and Abu Dhabi, among others. His personal favourites are the car museums at Abu Dhabi and Dharmasthala. He has a story for every item, and a WhatsApp group called 'Museum Updates' to relay the stories behind various artefacts.

Joining the museum in October 2023, he oversaw final stages of the renovation going on. The museum reopened its doors to the public on December 24, 2023, and the International Museum Day celebration on May 18 was its first public event ever since. On this day, a record crowd of NSS volunteers, foreign visitors, teachers and journalists



Unlocking history

There are layers of stories amid the artefacts at Gandhi Museum

was at the museum, agog with wonder over this hitherto undiscovered treasure trove.

Vandalism is a major menace in most museums, but according to the director, that hasn't been a problem here so far. Of course, there is a tendency to touch and lift unlocked pieces, but there is enough warning signage. Measures have been taken to restrict any physical contact.

Mangaluru, known for its celebration of all things cultural, should give this museum the footfall it deserves. A delight for philatelists and numismatists, it houses a massive African elephant skull, palm manuscripts and forgotten items from local households.

Pai aptly calls it the Museum of Natural History: the first floor with animal specimens holds good as the literal meaning, it also means that the building houses things that show human beings at their most natural: collecting, creating, connecting and curating.

The museum is shut on Sundays, while people are welcome from Monday to Saturday.



From top: A medieval cannon; A sketch of the museum; English playwright William Shakespeare; The mythical Kamadhenu; A replica of the Mohenjo Daro's 'Bearded Priest'; and artist's depiction of Bharat Mata

Tree-mendous wind power

Students from SJCE, Mysuru, develop 'Wind Tree' to harness low-intensity wind, generate power to charge EVs, phones

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

TO help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change, four mechanical engineering students of Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering at JSS Science and Technology University have developed an innovative 'Wind Tree' model. This device harnesses wind power to charge electric vehicles (EVs), mobile phones and light LED bulbs.

The prototype was created by final-year students Mohammed Rashid, Mohammed Adnan, Mohammed Azeeb, and Mohammed Talha. The 'Wind Tree' concept utilises helical blades to generate electricity. Unlike traditional wind turbines, it uses artificial trees where the leaves function as horizontal turbines to produce power.

The students invested around Rs 15,000 to develop the portable model, which can be installed in areas with limited space. Mohammed Rashid explained to TNSE that most current wind turbines are windmills that require large space and constant high-speed winds to generate electricity. We need an ideal structure and concept to use wind power more efficiently.

"With increasing use of electricity, it is crucial to reduce load on the primary

source, and develop more efficient sources. We have developed the aero-leaf wind turbine to generate electricity in public places," he said.

Emphasising the uniqueness of 'Wind Tree' model, Rashid explained that the turbines are designed to resemble an artificial tree. The artificial aero leaves act as microturbines that spin on a vertical axis utilising low intensity wind, he said. "The idea is to create an electrical power-generating system in the form of a tree, with each leaf serving as a mini wind turbine. Capturing low wind speeds and turbulence is central to this approach, which can deliver power and autonomy through a proliferation of leaves," he added. Mohammed Adnan highlighted the primary goal of increasing the energy conversion efficiency of wind trees.

"This involves improving the design of vertical-axis wind turbines used to capture more energy from lower wind speeds. Innovation in blade design and materials, as well as better aerodynamics, can contribute to higher efficiency. Although wind trees can be more expensive than traditional wind turbines on a per-unit power output basis, reducing manufacturing costs, optimising materials, and scaling up production can make wind trees more cost-competitive," he explained.



Mohammed Rashid, Mohammed Adnan, Mohammed Azeeb and Mohammed Talha, students of SJCE who developed the 'Wind Tree' model | EXPRESS



B'luru students' creativity solves real world issues

BIJOLPITA BHADURI @Bengaluru

NAVIGATION through Russell Market and KR Market will now be easier thanks to Bengaluru-based Misha Sachdeva, who created the app Baazargram, which help citizens find their way around market space in the city.

Inspired by the Google Maps, Misha, a final-year under-grad student created a local version of the map, specific to the market locality.

"I have created an app that would guide customers through the small lanes of Russell Market, and provide insights about the shops. There is a version for vendors as well, which allows them to mark significant dates and monitor their payments," explained Misha.

The Sri Sri Manjula Institute of Art, Design, and Technology (SMI) on Saturday hosted SMI Collective 2024 - an extensive exhibition featuring over 150 projects catering to real world problems.

Harshita Sikchi, another student, aims to use toxic water hyacinths growing in Anekal lake, to make handcrafted items, and to create biochar and composite fertilizers. In collaboration with Vrikshamitra Foundation, Harshita seeks to plant sustainable alternatives after extraction of the hyacinths.

"This project seeks to empower individuals to take action to protect the ecosystem by fostering collaboration between design, environmental advocacy, and community engagement," Harshita said.

Showcasing their immense creativity in dealing with community problems, Adya Girdhar used banana leaves to produce eco-friendly, biodegradable packaging to cut down on plastic waste. She also created a manual to instruct eateries on how to package food items.

After slip disc, mom treks to Everest base with son

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru:

THIS mother and son duo from Bengaluru have showed that it with sheer determination and consistent practice, even Mt Everest can be scaled with ease. The 42-year-old Neelam Goyal and her son Kanha Aboti (11), walked 12 km and climbed 12 storey buildings everyday for the last four years, to build their stamina to climb to the Everest Base Camp at a height of 5,364 metres.

Kanha is one of the youngest boys to climb the base camp. He was also awarded the CM Dasara Camp gold medal for karate in 2023.

"I had a lumbar slip disc just before the first Covid wave in February 2020. After that, the doctor advised me to go slow when taking up a physical activity. My son and I always wanted to climb the Everest. So we started working together. We would walk, and climb stairs everyday to build our physical strength. We even trekked the Kumara Parvatha and Tadiandamol in Karnataka, and other hills in Dehradun, to build our endurance for the Everest Base Camp," said Neelam.

The mother and son proved



Neelam Goyal and her son Kanha Aboti

that trekking is no longer an adventure sport for solo trekkers or only for the youth. It can also be a family-bonding sport.

Introducing children to the mountains and nature at an early age is beneficial for their physical health, character building, and personal growth, said Naveen Mallesh, Founder and CEO, TrekNomads.

"Trekking gave us joy, and we bonded on a completely different level. Our daily walking helped us complete the base camp expedition. Next, we would want to scale up the mountain itself," Neelam said.

They were a part of a group of eight who went on a trek to the Himalayan base camp from April 21 to May 7.

BWSSB chief: City floods a result of overflowing drains

Bengaluru: During a meeting conducted on Saturday, BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar instructed officials to take measures to deal with the water crisis in the city, and to speed up the inspection of places where the rain water is directed to the sewage, adding to drainage water overflowing onto the roads during the monsoon seasons. Addressing the meeting, he also said that due to the increased pressure on the drainage system during the monsoon, problems like floods arise, which is why it is important to keep a check on the excess inflow to the drains. Emphasising on the need to conserve water, he added that the BWSSB is responsible for adequate water supply across the city, and there is a need to educate people about the importance of water. He also instructed the officials to create awareness about rain water harvesting, and encouraging people to install RWH system in their homes. Talking about concerns regarding the quality of drinking water during monsoon, he said, "One should take extra care to ensure the water is not contaminated. For this, water must be tested with more accuracy. More tests need to be conducted for better accuracy."

US ambassador meets blind cricket team ahead of '28 Paralympics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti met the blind cricket team from India, former world champion. He interacted with diverse members of the team and witnessed their skills. The ambassador said he is excited

about the team visiting the US and promoting blind cricket ahead of the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics.

Garcetti has been in Bengaluru for the last two days and on Friday met business leaders and entrepreneurs from the space sector to spotlight robust economic and

commercial relations between the United States and India. He was attending the US-India Commercial Space Cooperation Conference. He said the long-standing demand for a US consulate in Bengaluru will be fulfilled by next year.

Along with US Consul General Chris Hodges, Ambassa-

better civic administration will be given preference."

Congress leader Abhilash Reddy, whose wife Shipla Abhilash Reddy represented the New Tippasandra ward, has asked the workers to reach out to all the residents and list out their priorities. "During the BJP's tenure, delimitation of wards was done unscientifically, and village in the ward was divided. But Congress knocked off the old delimitation of wards, and restored earlier boundaries. We are happy about this decision. We are ready to face the BBMP polls now," said Abhilash Reddy.

Shobha Gowda, who represented Vasanthapura ward in the city outskirts, said that since September 2020, there have been no corporators in BBMP council. Basic civic needs are being addressed with the help of Bengaluru Rural MP, DK Suresh. "People still come to the leaders, as engineers are not always available," said Gowda.

However, former mayor and BJP leader from Basavanagudi ward Katta Sathyanarayana and BBMP's former town planning chairman, AH Basavaraju suggested, "The government only says that it will hold local body elections, but after the outcome of LS polls on June 4, it will drag its feet."

ing Technology (iCET) as an important mechanism for expanding strategic security and technology cooperation.

He toured the Science Gallery Bengaluru, India's first independent not-for-profit public institution for research-based engagement and viewed the ongoing 'Carbon' exhibition.

HC issues guidelines on depositing firearms

'Norms ensure integrity of elections is maintained, rights of gun owners respected'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE High Court of Karnataka has issued 11 guidelines to deputy commissioners on depositing firearms by license-holders with jurisdictional police during assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

The high court issued the guidelines after observing that the DCs issued the blanket order to licensed firearm owners to deposit their weapons without adhering to the norms mandated by the ECI.

These guidelines have been designed to strike a balance be-



tween safeguarding public safety and upholding individual rights. By adhering to these guidelines, the authorities can ensure a fair, transparent and accountable process that maintains the integrity of the electoral system while respecting the rights of licensed firearm owners, the court said.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadam issued the guidelines while allowing a batch of petitions against the orders issued on March 18 and 26 by the deputy commissioner of Dakshina Kannada.

The court said the DC and the screening committee should review the norms issued by the ECI only in cases where persons are released on bail, those having a history of criminal offences and those previously involved in rioting to prevent them from using firearms to disrupt the fair election process. In such cases only, appropriate directions should be issued, calling upon such per-

sons to deposit their firearms with the jurisdictional police armory, the court added.

The court said farmers and agriculturists living near forests have licensed guns to protect their crops and livestock from wild animals. Similarly, individuals/activists/professionals facing threat to their lives also have licensed firearms. Therefore, during every election, there cannot be a blanket order asking such individuals/activists/professionals to deposit guns/firearms, especially when they have license to keep them for their safety and well-being.



GREENING THE CITY

With the arrival of rain in Bengaluru, BBMP workers replace dead ornamental plants along the median on Palace Road on Saturday | ALLEN EUGENE J

Man kills wife, drags body for 300m

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

A 27-year-old woman was murdered, her legs were tied by a rope and body was dragged for almost 300 metres, in Ramanagara district.

Her husband, the accused, placed her body in an open field and covered it with dry coconut leaves.

The victim, C Ashwini, a resident of Kasaba in Chan-napatta, worked as a cook in a doctor's residence. She allegedly refused to handover her earnings to her husband K Ramesh, which enraged him, leading to the murder.

The incident took place in the wee hours of Wednesday, and the incident came to light in the morning. Ashwini's body was found at Managadahalli village of Virupakshipur Hobli in Ramanagara.

Ramesh used to get drunk and beat his wife. Unable to bear the harassment, Ashwini had gone back to her parents' house with her two children. Ramesh went to his in-laws' to bring back his wife, assuring not to repeat his act.

On Wednesday, the victim's mother, Manjamma's relatives informed her about the murder. She went to the spot along with her son and saw the rope tied to her daughter's legs. She filed a complaint against Ramesh.

Police suspect that Ashwini was strangled to death, and was later dragged to the spot. The accused have been arrested, said an investigating officer. A case has been registered by the Akkur police. Further investigations are on.

Swinging swords, crashing cars, two gangs fight in Udupi

PRAKASH SAMAGA @ Udupi

IN a horrifying incident in Udupi, two groups were involved in a clash with their cars colliding against each other's, on May 18. CCTV footage showed a car reversing and colliding with another, its two doors slightly opened, before proceeding forward, and youth could be seen wielding a sword. Then, a white car struck a man with the sword and he collapsed on the road. Both cars then continue to move and two youth assault the fallen man.



Video grab of the incident

Udupi town police have arrested three accused Ashiq, Rakib and Saqlain, who were part of the 'Garuda gang', and five others are said to be absconding'. Police sources told *TNSE* that the Garuda gang is mainly involved in cattle trafficking, dacoity and robbery. Two kidnapping cases have also been registered against the gang members. According to Udupi police, the gang have no permanent members as such, but unemployed youth from Surathkal, Kaup, Udupi, Kundapur are suspected to have joined the gang. Udupi SP Dr Arun said, "The gang mainly operated from Kaup town, but are not very active now. Infighting and one-upmanship gradually resulted in their downfall." The video of the road rage incident reported in the Udupi town police station limits has gone viral.

Udupi SP Dr Arun K said the viral video shows two factions from the same gang engaged in a clash. A case was registered at the Udupi town police station on May 20.

Art exhibition for cancer awareness

Bengaluru: To spread awareness about bladder cancer as part of Bladder Cancer Awareness Month, HCG Foundation and Swasti Gallery, in collaboration with HCG Cancer Hospitals launched the 'Art against cancer' exhibition. The two-day event, held on May 24 and 25, showcased a diverse collection of artworks from various art schools across India. Each artwork conveyed the artists' interpretations of the theme and their solidarity in the fight against bladder cancer, with an aim to inspire, educate, and initiate meaningful conversations about the disease. Dr Shekar Patil of HCG Cancer Hospitals said, "Art has the power to engage people through creativity and vibrant colours."

Plaint against PM's speech in Banswara

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE complainant stated that he belongs to Muslim community and Modi made a derogatory speech at Banswara in Rajasthan on April 21, instigating people to treat the community members as intruding usurpers who have taken away the wealth of this nation for themselves. Modi had also threatened that if the Congress party comes to power at the Centre, it will take away the earnings of other communities and give them to Muslims, he stated.

The complaint has been registered under Sections 153A, 153B, 295A, 503, 504 and 505(2) of IPC.

The complainant claimed that he initially approached Amruthahalli police in Bengaluru, who informed him that they will not be able to file an FIR against Modi as it falls under the purview of the ECI. He approached the ECI to desist Modi from making such speeches and filed the private complaint with an appeal to the court to take cognisance of the offence and refer it for investigation.

EXPRESS READ Canara Bank unveils Canara Green Deposit Scheme

Bengaluru: Canara Bank has unveiled its latest financial offering, the Canara Green Deposit scheme, a term deposit that not only provides attractive interest rates, but also fosters participation in India's burgeoning green and sustainable economy. Under the Canara Green Deposit scheme, depositors can earn interest rates of up to 7.20% per annum on various tenors, including 1, 111, 2,222, and 3,333 days. The scheme is open to all sections of the populace, including resident Indians, NRIs, and corporates. For more information, visit the bank's official website.



Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan secretary Manandini N Suresh felicitates Chiranjiv Singh, former IAS officer, during the inauguration of Vasanthotsava on Saturday

Seven-day cultural fest inaugurated

Bengaluru: Infosys Foundation in association with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan has organised a seven-day-long cultural festival - Vasanthotsava, which was inaugurated on Saturday. The 27th edition of the cultural extravaganza will feature musical concerts, art exhibitions, theatre shows, and various dance forms. Each day, the venue will open from 11 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm. Cultural events will begin at 6 pm. Executive Vice President of Infosys Foundation Sunil Kumar Dhreshwar said, "Art is a very powerful medium to express people's thoughts, feelings, and emotions, and Vasanthotsava hopes to connect with its audience through art." With an aim to explain to the younger generation, the true meaning of culture, the programs will be live-streamed and recorded, said former ambassador of UNESCO and vice-chairman of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Chiranjiv Singh said.

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The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the Bank has taken possession of the immovable property described below under section 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act-2002 and the same will be sold by inviting offers/tenders from the public on "As is where is" and "As is What is Basis" subject to the terms and conditions mentioned below.

1. Name and Address of the Borrower:- Sri.Bheemesh.C S/o Sri Channaiiah, No.15, Doddanna Lay out, Ajjanahalli, Chunchakuppe, Bangalore-562130

Names and Address of the Guarantors:- 1.Smt Bindu.L.R w/o Sri. Bheemesh.C, No.15, Doddanna Lay out, Ajjanahalli, Chunchakuppe, Bangalore-562130. 2. Sri Chinnaiiah S/o Sri Arasaiah, No.15, Doddanna Lay out,Ajjanahalli, Chunchakuppe, Bangalore-562130.

Outstanding Liabilities: Rs.13,28,926-00 as on 20.05.2024 with further interest and other charges

Description of the Secured Property:- All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.40/2, katha No.2, PID No.150200302403923331, situated at Ajjanahalli Village, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-532130, measuring East to West 9.14 Mtrs and North to South 12.19 Mtrs, totally 111.48 sq mtrs and bounded on :East by: Property belongs to Arasaiah, West by: Road, North by: Remaining Property South by: Remaining Property

Reserve Price: Rs.29,10,000.00 **EMD : Rs.2,91,000.00**

Date of Opening Tenders At 3-00 p.m. on 11.06.2024 at Bank's Premises

Terms and conditions of the Auction :

- The Property will not be sold below the Reserve Price.
- The amount of EMD mentioned above shall be paid by way of Pay Order/DD/Banker's cheque drawn in favour of "Sri Lakshmi Mahila Sahakara Bank Niyamitha", Bangalore-4 on or before **5.00 P.M. On 10-06-2024** along with tender/offer letter for purchase of the property in a sealed cover (EMD of the unsuccessful bidder will be returned without interest)
- The offer/tender letter shall be accompanied with attested copy of the PAN Card and photo identity of the bidder/offer with residential address proof.
- The sealed tenders will be opened by the Authorized Officer of the Bank in the presence of the bidders/ tenderers (who may like to be present) on **11-06-2024 at 3.00 P.M.** The Authorized officer is at liberty to give an opportunity to bid or enhance the offer by the bidders or accept the highest bid amount or reject/ postpone the sale of the property at his discretion without assigning any reason therefore.
- Successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the final bid amount (including EMD) immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance sale price has to be remitted within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale or any other date as may be specified by the Authorized Officer.
- The successful bidder shall bear all the legal/incidental expenses towards stamp duty, registration charges local taxes, power and water charges etc.,
- On confirmation of sale by the Bank and upon compliance of terms of payment, the Authorized officer shall issue the sale certificate in the name of the Purchaser only in the Form in Appendix V of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules-2002.
- The Bank reserves the right to forfeit the amounts already remitted by the bidder if he fails to remit the balance sale price within 15 days or any other date as specified by the Authorized Officer.
- The Bank will not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance or any other dues to the Government or any claim of any person in respect of the property being sold.
- The bidder may inspect the property and verify the documents/title deeds available with the Bank with prior intimation and satisfy themselves before submitting the tender (Ph.No.080 26614794).

Note:- This is also a notice to the Borrowers/Guarantors for the loan about holding of auction sale of the property on the date indicated above if the Bank dues are not repaid in full before the date of auction.

Place: Bangalore
Date :20.05.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Sri Lakshmi Mahila Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Bangalore

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಮಾನಕ ಬ್ಯೂರೋ
भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION, GOVT. OF INDIA

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

The National Standards body of India, is making our lives better and safer by developing Indian Standards for each of the products and systems being used in our daily lives

BIS also certifies the quality by giving Standard marks like the ISI Mark, Registration Mark, Hallmark Etc.

DRAFT INDIAN STANDARD MED 33(24506)
Safety Relief Device For Pressure Cookers Specification

MANAK MANTHAN
A platform to learn & discuss Indian standards.
LEARN & DISCUSS INDIAN STANDARDS WITH US

29-05-2024
10:30 a.m

Venue:
Training hall, Bureau Of Indian Standards, Bangalore Branch Office, Opposite jalahalli metro, peenya, tumkur rd, Vivekananda nagar, Bengaluru, karnataka- 560058.

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS
Bangalore Branch Office, Opposite jalahalli metro, peenya, tumkur rd, Vivekananda nagar, Bengaluru, karnataka- 560058.

Marks of Trust

22K916 For 22 Karat Jewellery
XXXXXX 6 Digit Alphanumeric Number (HUID)

Scan & Register

Seats will be allotted on first come first serve basis

SIT, state, Centre know where Prajwal is: Rajanna

The minister says there is no delay, state taking time to ensure no legal, procedural lapses in case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

MINISTER for Cooperation and Hassan district in-charge minister KN Rajanna created a stir on Saturday, saying the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and the governments know JDS MP Prajwal Revanna's whereabouts. The SIT, constituted by the state government to probe the sex scandal allegedly involving the parliamentarian, has issued an arrest warrant against Prajwal.

"The SIT, state government and Centre know the place and in whose house he (Prajwal) is holed up and also his movements since he is an MP. He can be arrested and passport cancelled immediately, but the court may dismiss the case as natural justice is being denied to him (by not giving him an opportunity to depose)," he told reporters. He denied that Prajwal's arrest is getting delayed and attributed it to the government sticking to procedures. He said, "The government is taking all action to ensure that there are no procedural and legal lapses. If there is any violation (lapse), it will help Prajwal in the court."

He claimed the SIT is rigorously collecting information and evidence from Prajwal's alleged sexual assault victims confidentially without disturbing their families' dignity.

On the Lok Sabha elections, he said Prajwal's opponent and Congress candidate Shreyas Patel has an edge in the Hassan

constituency. He denied that the circulation of a pen drive, consisting of alleged sleazy videos of Prajwal, has helped Patel. "Apart from the five guaranties of the government, the sympathy factor following Patel losing the Holenarasipur Assembly seat by a whisker in the 2023 polls, his mother losing from the same seat in the past and the image of his grandfather and former MP late G Puttaswamy Gowda have worked in favour of the Congress candidate," he added.

'HDK father of pen drive'

Rajanna alleged that JDS state president HD Kumaraswamy may be the father of the pen drive, containing sleazy videos allegedly showing Prajwal. "Kumaraswamy kept saying that he had a pen drive to release. Who knows, it might be the same pen drive," he taunted.

BJP leader CT Ravi in Chitradurga said Rajanna must be investigated as he claimed Kumaraswamy is the mastermind of the pen drive.

'Will give up minister's post to become KPCC prez'

Rajanna, a ST Nayaka leader and staunch supporter of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, expressed his desire to become KPCC president. "If given an opportunity to serve as KPCC president, I will quit as minister and contribute to the party's organisation as I have decided to not to contest the polls in future," he added.

Siddu hits out at Jaishankar, demands immediate action

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A day after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that his ministry received a request to impound the diplomatic passport of Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna only on May 21, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah claimed that he had written the letter to MEA 15 days ago.

Prajwal, who is also the NDA candidate from the Hassan Lok Sabha seat, is facing probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the state government over allegations of sexual harassment. Prajwal fled to Germany on April 27.

The CM told reporters that the State Government is yet to receive a reply from the Ministry of External Affairs. "If I had delayed sending the request, then why hasn't the ministry acted on it," he questioned.

He said the Centre should not buy time and act immediately to see that Prajwal's diplomatic passport and visa are impounded, and necessary steps taken to bring him back to India. Siddaramaiah also took objection to state JDS president and former CM HD Kumaraswamy drawing parallels between his son Rakesh's death and Prajwal case. Kumaraswamy is making such statements out of desperation, he added.

He claimed that Kumaraswamy is reiterating that circulating the contents of the pen drive containing obscene videos is more heinous than committing rape when there is no legal scrutiny or provision under IPC. Clarifying that he is not defending the circulation of the contents of the pen drive, he said there is no logic in Kumaraswamy's argument.



The State Government is yet to receive a reply from the Ministry of External Affairs on the request. If I had delayed sending the request, then why hasn't the ministry acted on it

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

Let them (Opposition) make allegations against the government and if there are any mistakes, that will be corrected, but it is not correct to show Bengaluru in a bad light

G Parameshwara, Karnataka Home Minister

Did PMO not inform MEA, asks Parameshwara

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A day after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the MEA received the Karnataka government's request to impound the passport of JDS MP Prajwal Revanna only on May 21, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara took a dig at the Centre.

Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, the Home Minister said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April and the External Affairs Minister's statement shows that the PMO had not communicated it to the MEA. "What happened to the CM's letter? This shows how the Centre works," he said.

The Minister said Prajwal has to return to the country once his diplomatic passport is impounded as he can not stay in any other country.

On the alleged lock-up death in Davanagere district and vandalising of the police station, Dr Parameshwara said that based on a complaint the police had brought the accused to the station and within seven minutes, he developed health complications. Details will be known after getting the postmortem report, he said.

He said the government will take stern action against the rowdy elements. He urged Opposition leaders not to show Bengaluru in a bad light. "Let them make allegations against the government and if there are any mistakes, that will be corrected, but it is not correct to show Bengaluru in a bad light," he said.

Fight for supremacy in the Upper House, uphill task for Cong



OVER a year after winning a thumping majority in the Karnataka Assembly, Congress hopes to soon regain supremacy in the 75-member Upper House of the State Legislature. That would ensure hassle-free passage of the Bills by the government and avoid political embarrassment for Congress.

Congress lacks a majority in the Council and the ongoing elections for 17 seats offer an opportunity to improve its position. For now, it looks difficult for the party to completely change the equations in the Upper House.

Currently, with 32 members, BJP is the single-largest party in the Council, followed by Congress with 29 and seven from JDS. Five seats are vacant, while one is an independent member.

As the Congress' numbers are far below the combined strength of BJP-JDS, the government ran into rough weather over getting some Bills passed. In February this year, the Hindu Religious and Temple Endowments (Amendment) Bill 2024, which proposes to collect 5% of the gross income of temples with an annual gross income of over Rs 10 lakh and 10% from temples with a gross income of over Rs 1 crore, was defeated in the Council after it was passed in the Assembly. Though the Bill was later passed in the Assembly and Council, the development put the government in an uncomfortable position.

If a Bill is defeated in the Council, it can again be taken back to the Assembly and passed. But if it is referred to a House Committee in the Council, it can take a minimum of few months to complete the process. In July last year, the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill was sent to the House Committee. The Bill to repeal the amendments made to the Act during the previous BJP regime allowing farmers to sell agricultural produce even outside the APMC yards was passed in February this year.

Disconcerting developments in the Council could be a thing of the past if Congress gets the majority after the ongoing polls or in the next few months when the government gets to nominate a few more members and the seat va-

cated by former CM Jagadish Shettar is filled. During his nine-month association with Congress, Shettar was elected to the Council from the Assembly in June last year.

Now, 11 members from the Assembly constituency will be elected on June 13. Based on its strength in the Assembly, Congress can get seven, BJP three and JDS one. The elections were necessitated as the term of six BJP, four Congress and one JDS MLC is ending.

Prior to that, on June 3, registered teachers and graduates will vote to elect three members each from the graduates' and teachers' constituencies. For Congress, the polls will be crucial as it needs to win most of those seats to improve its position significantly. Even some Congress leaders admit that it is a difficult task given the composition of the voters and constituencies going to the polls.

Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the six states that have the bicameral system. Of the 75 Council members, 25 each are elected by members of the state Assembly and local bodies. Seven each are from graduates' and teachers' constituencies and another 11 members are nominated by the government.

The state legislative Council is almost like the Rajya Sabha and provides a platform for meaningful and constructive discussions to help the administration. Former Chairman of the Council VR Sudharshan says the Rajya Sabha enjoys constitutional protection, but the Council is at the mercy of the Assembly and it can be dissolved or revived by passing a resolution with a two-thirds majority.

According to him, after studying the utility and advantages of councils in six states, the Centre should come up with a national policy on councils and also a constitutional amendment to strengthen the system.

Former Council chairman BL Shankar too feels that like the Upper House at the national level, the Centre should have created councils in all the states.

Now the parties are finalising their candidates for nomination to the Upper House. As they fight for supremacy in the Council, they should keep in mind the need for meaningful debates that can contribute to the society at large and ensure that the Upper House should not just end up being a place to accommodate leaders for various other political compulsions.

BJP expels Raghupathi Bhat

UDUPI: Former Udupi MLA K Raghupathi Bhat has been expelled from the BJP. He was expelled from the BJP for filing papers as an independent candidate from the South West Graduate constituency that will go to the polls on June 3. A notice was issued to Bhat by the party's disciplinary committee seeking his clarification. The disciplinary committee has now issued an order expelling Bhat. State BJP disciplinary committee chief Lingaraju Patil stated in a release that Bhat has been expelled from the party for contesting as a rebel candidate of the BJP from the South West Graduates constituency. "Disregarding the instructions of the party, you have brought embarrassment to the party by rebelling against the official candidate. This is a violation of party discipline. You are therefore hereby relieved of all party responsibilities and expelled for six years with immediate effect"



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, DyCM DK Shivakumar and others at the Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Manjunatha Swamy Temple, on Saturday | EXPRESS

'For rain & peace': CM, DCM visit Dharmasthala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah, DyCM DK Shivakumar and a few of their Cabinet colleagues offered prayers at Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Manjunatha Swamy Temple on Saturday.

Speaking to the media later, the duo said that they sought the blessings of the deity for good rains, a bumper harvest, and peace in Karnataka.

Taking to 'X', the CM said, "Visited Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Manjunatha Swamy Temple and offered a special puja for good rains and crops. I prayed for happiness, peace, and prosperity in everyone's life." The CM further said that he met a few women devotees who expressed happiness over the Gruha Lakshmi scheme,

under which Rs 2,000 is given to every woman head of the family.

"Dharmasthala Dharmadhikari Dr D Veerendra Hegde expressed his happiness over the State Government's Shakti scheme, which offers free bus rides for women in RTC buses, saying that it has helped women from different corners of the state visit the temple to have the darshan of Lord Manjunatha," DyCM DK Shivakumar said.

The DyCM said that women devotees expressed happiness over the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. "Their prayers and blessings will give us more strength. Lord Manjunatha will also help us implement the guarantees," the DyCM said.

JAI SHRI RAM, MODI CHANTS GREET CM

A few devotees at the Dharmasthala Temple chanted 'Jai Shri Ram' and slogans in favour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the visit by CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar on Saturday. In view of the high-profile visit, the darshan for devotees was stopped for over an hour. This had enraged the devotees, and they shouted slogans when the CM arrived.

Nearly 100 aspirants in race for 7 MLC posts in Congress

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

AHEAD of filing of nomination starting on Monday for the 11 MLC posts to be elected from the Assembly, lobbying has intensified in the ruling Congress as nearly 100 aspirants have applied for the seven seats the Grand Old Party can win. The elections are scheduled for June 13.

Recommendations favouring certain candidates are coming from leaders of different fields. An influential religious head has backed some 'deserving' candidates, asking Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to pick them. A renowned industry leader has emailed a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, sources told The New Sunday Express. A delegation of Muslims met Shivakumar and insisted that the community be given priority.

AICC General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala is likely to arrive on Monday and shortlist the candidates which will be finalised by the high command in New Delhi, sources said. Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are likely to visit the national capital on May 28 and May 29 to



discuss the list.

The CM and DCM, who is also the KPCC president, had reportedly promised some aspirants MLC posts in the run-up to the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The aspirants are now thronging the residences of two leaders.

Siddaramaiah's son Dr Yathindra and minister NS Boseraju are most likely to get nominated as the party high command had assured them MLC posts. But the high command may strike a caste balance in allotting the remaining five seats by giving representation to members of SC/ST, OBC, Veerashaiva-Lingayat, Vokkaliga and minority community.

Former Rajya Sabha member Dr L Hanumanthaiah, VS Ugrappa, Dr BC Muddugangadhar, MS Basavaraj, A Vasanthakumar and Dr B Puspam Amarnath (SC/STs), KPCC communication wing chief Ramesh Babu and former minister R Shankar (OBCs), Rani Satish and Veena Kashapannavar (Veerashaiva-Lingayats), AN Nataraje Gowda, M Narayanaswamy, Kusuma Hanumantharayappa and Vinay Karthik (Vokkaligas), SA Hussain, GA Bava and Aga Sultan (Muslims) are among those in the race.

There will be no surprise if KPCC General Secretary Vijay K Mulgund, a Brahmin, emerges as a nominee, a source said. As Muslims have been given representation in the Assembly, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Christians are lobbying for an MLC post with Ivan D'Souza at the forefront, another source said. Former speaker KR Ramesh Kumar and former minister H Anjaneya, among other leaders, are also lobbying, but the party has decided not to nominate those who were defeated in the Assembly polls, a highly placed source said. AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge is also likely to take a final decision, including that of aspirants from the SC/ST quota, they added.

'Adil's parents, kin say he died in police custody'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to police, Adil died due to health issues. But his parents alleged that he died while in police custody. The body was shifted to the Chigateri district hospital where an autopsy was conducted in the presence of a local court judge. Davanagere SP Uma Prashanth on Saturday said, "Adil was brought to the police station on Friday. However, he collapsed in the station and was rushed to a local hospital. The police then learnt that he had died. Adil was not in the station for more than seven minutes. However, Adil's parents and relatives allege that he died in police custody."

"There are CCTV cameras in the station. A complaint filed by Adil's father will be investigated. The postmortem was

done under the supervision of a judge, considering the seriousness of the case," she said.

Four cases have been registered in connection with Adil's death. The situation is under control in Channagiri, Uma said.

Police sources said after Adil collapsed in the station, he was immediately rushed to hospital, where he died. It was found that he had low blood pressure and suffered seizures. Enraged by this, Adil's family and community members attacked the station.

The sources said those who had attacked the station have been identified and they will be arrested soon.

Police personnel from neighbouring Shivamogga and Chitradurga districts have been deployed in Channagiri.



The damaged police vehicles in Channagiri

'My husband was beaten to death'

Meanwhile, Adil's wife Heena Bhanu, alleged that her husband was beaten to death in the police station and he did not have any health issues. Addressing reporters, she alleged that the police took her husband to the station for not pay-

ing them money. Adil used to organise "matka" gambling and give "commission" to the police, she said. Adil's father Khalimulla said, "My son did not die because of low BP. Police beat him to death. We want justice. The government should conduct an impartial investigation." His uncle Mehaboob Ali said Adil was a carpenter. "We were informed about Adil's arrest around 7.30 pm. We went to the station around 9 pm and policemen there told us that Adil died in hospital."

The DySP informed us that Adil suffered seizures at the station and was rushed to the hospital. But Adil had no health issues. Only a thorough probe will bring out the truth," he said. Local MLA Basavaraj Shivaganga visited Adil's house and consoled his family members.

BJP takes on state govt over law & order

BENGALURU: After a police station in Davanagere district was vandalised after an alleged lock-up death and a video of a members of criminal gangs fighting in Udupi went viral on social media platforms, the Opposition BJP hit out at the State Government over the law and order situation in Karnataka. "Law and order in Karnataka has become a thing of the past since Congress took over the state. Appeasement politics is on the rise, giving radicals a free rein to pelt stones at police stations, burn them down, attack police personnel, and ransack police vehicles. Despite these incidents, the CM of Karnataka comes out blaming the police personnel. Can appeasement get any worse?" BJP state president BY Vijayendra tweeted. The BJP leader said Karnataka, once a hub of investors, is now a safe haven for terrorists, drug addicts, and the corrupt, he added.

Oppn doing 'mujra' for votes: Modi

RAMASHANKAR & NAMITA BAJPAI
@Patna/Lucknow

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a blistering attack on the opposition INDIA bloc saying that it was free to do 'mujra' (dance) if it wished to, but he would not let them snatch the reservations given to the SCs, STs, OBCs and EBCs.

Addressing election rallies in Patliputra, Karakat and Buxar Lok Sabha constituencies on the sixth phase of elections in Bihar, the PM said he was giving a guarantee to the people of



Bihar that he would not let them (INDIA bloc) snatch away their rights till he was alive.

In Karakat, Modi said the countdown had begun for incarceration of those who had taken land in lieu of giving jobs in the railway, making a veiled

attack on RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his son and former Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav.

"With (his) helicopter sorties coming to an end, the way to jail will open for him," Modi remarked, sharpening his campaign pitch.

The PM accused the Congress of changing the law linked to minority institutions to please their vote bank as thousands of institutions were declared minority institutions in the process. After these institutions were declared minority institutions, SCs, STs, and

OBCs could not get reservation facility during admissions.

"In West Bengal, 77 Muslim castes were given benefits of OBC reservation in government jobs. Rights of OBCs, EBCs were snatched for those doing 'vote jihad'," Modi said, adding that INDIA bloc leaders were being known as communal, casteist and dynasts.

"They first think of their family," he said. Referring to Lalu Prasad, Modi said, "This is the era of LED bulbs, but he is moving around with a lantern. This lantern has spread darkness all over Bihar."

PM's Mysuru safari dues yet to be cleared, min to write to NTCA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FOREST, Environment and Ecology Minister Eshwar B Khandre on Saturday said the state government will write to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) asking them to clear the dues incurred for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mysuru in April last year for the release of the tiger estimation and project tiger progress reports.

Speaking to the media, Khandre said it is unfortunate that despite a commitment by the NTCA to pay for the event, the dues are still not cleared. It is also unfortunate that a private hotel, Radisson Blu, Mysuru, has to rake up the issue and state that legal action will be taken if the dues along with interest are not cleared.

Khandre said earlier it was decided that NTCA will bear the entire cost of the event which earlier was Rs 3.33 crore and then escalated to Rs 6.33 crore. The NTCA has only cleared Rs 3 crore and the re-

maining Rs 3.33 crore is pending which also includes Rs 80.6 lakh as hotel charges.

"Even though the forest department had written letters in the past, I will again write to NTCA and resolve the issue in a cordial manner," Khandre said adding that the event was not a state event and the state cannot pay the charges as the model code of conduct (for assembly polls) was in effect at that time.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysuru, Malathi Priya said since it was a central government event, the NTCA must clear the dues. The issue has been brought to the notice of the Inspector General of forests too.

A senior forest department official added that two chief wildlife wardens — Rajiv Ranjan and Subhash Malkhade — have written three letters to the NTCA. "The NTCA replied to one of the letters stating that since the PM had visited Karnataka, the state should pay for it. Now the member-secretary

of the department has also taken note of it. To save the state from further embarrassment, we are also using our personal contacts to get the money released. The Rs 6.33 crore includes hospitality charges, air tickets of domestic and international guests, travel charges of around 500 people from Bengaluru to Mysuru and their stay. The expenses also include safari and workshop charges. When the itinerary was chalked out, NTCA had committed to transfer the amount to the account of Bandipur Tiger Foundation, but that has not been done till date," the official added.

The official said so far they were internally writing to NTCA and it was only after the hotel wrote to Mysuru DC and Deputy Conservator of Forests stating that legal action will be taken if dues along with interest are not cleared by June 1, that the issue came to public knowledge now.



A crane lifts the car from the stream at Kurupanthara in Kottayam on Saturday | EXPRESS

Google Maps leads tourists' car into stream in Kottayam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kottayam

A group of four tourists, including a woman, from Hyderabad had a narrow escape after the car they were travelling in ended up in a stream while navigating using Google Maps at Kurupanthara in Kottayam in the early hours of Saturday.

The accident took place around 2.30 am at Kadav bridge near Kurupanthara. The tourists, hailing from Rangareddy district in Telangana, were on their way from Ooty to Alapuzha, via Munnar, relying on Google Maps for directions. Due to the heavy rain and inundated road, the driver lost his way and the car ended up falling into a stream. The vehicle floated for about 150m along the canal before coming to a stop after hitting the banks. Fortunately, the passengers were able to exit the car through the boot space without any injuries.

According to the driver, he mistook the canal for a waterlogged road. "I was driving at a speed of 10 km/h. We realised the situation after the boot of the vehicle started sinking in the water. We managed to escape from the car through the window," he said.

With the help of local residents and Fire and Rescue Services personnel, the car was lifted out of the canal using a crane by Saturday afternoon. Though it is an accident-prone area, the authorities failed to install a signboard or crash barrier at the site, said the local residents.

13-yr-old murders 10-yr-old, dumps body in septic tank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madurai

A 13-year-old boy allegedly murdered a 10-year-old boy for speaking ill of his mother at an Urdu School at Kathapatti village near Melur here. The incident came to light around 10 pm on Friday after the body of the boy, who had been missing since the evening, was found inside a septic tank in the school premises. Both the boys, natives of Bihar, are students of the Urdu School in the village, police sources said.

According to sources, Melur police rushed to the spot after the school administration began searching for the boy. After his body was recovered, the officers inspected CCTV footage, wherein the 13-year-old was seen beckoning the boy to the toilet. Following this, the elder boy dragged the other, who was lying unconscious, outside and dumped him in the septic tank.

After examining the footage, police officials in the presence of the child welfare committee officers conducted a talk with the suspect boy, who confessed that he had stabbed the boy for speaking ill about his mother. "The suspect boy's mother is no more and hence the 10-year-old talking ill of her could have triggered him. Hiding the incident, the elder boy carried on with his routine work," said a police officer.

It is learnt that the deceased is a native of Purnia in Bihar, and the suspect hails from Kishanganj in Bihar. Both were among the 11 students of the residential school, which is run by a foundation. After interrogation, the suspect boy was shifted to a juvenile observation home in Madurai city, sources said.

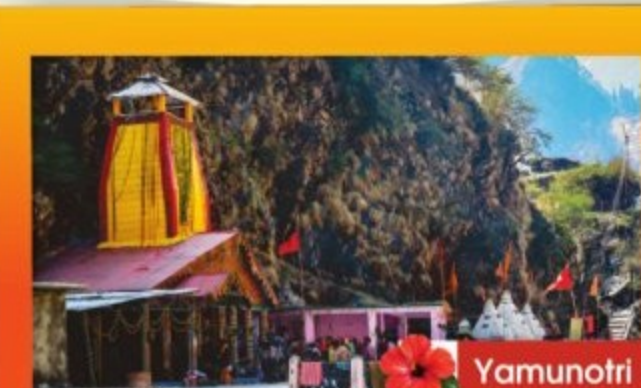
EXPRESS READ

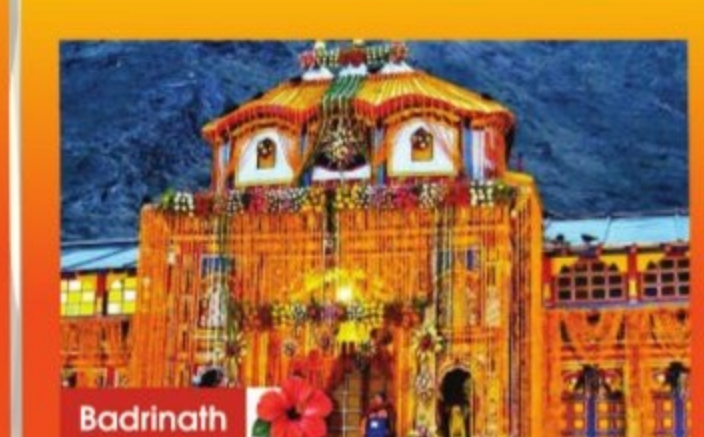
Husky, pit bull mauled in suspected tiger attack

Mangaluru: Two pet dogs — a Siberian husky and a pit bull — were killed in a suspected tiger attack at a private estate at Kuttandi village near B Shettigeri in Virajpet taluk of Kodagu on Saturday. The dogs belonged to Kalamanda Jagath, the estate owner. The dogs were set loose on Friday night, and were found dead outside the estate compound. The incident came to light early Saturday morning when the owner went in search of them. Tiger footprints have been found in the area. **ENS**

Police unearth cache of explosives in AP forest

Visakhapatnam: Police unearthed a cache of explosives in a forest area near Panaslabanda village in Alluri Sitarama Raju district in Andhra Pradesh on Friday. Among the items were six steel carriage landmines, two directional mines, 150 metres of electrical wire, and 5 kg of nails and bolts, along with Maoist literature. The seized materials were allegedly stored by a senior cadre of the banned CPI Maoist Party, purportedly to attack police engaged in combating operations. **ENS**

Devbhoomi Uttarakhand

A heartiest welcome and greetings to all the visiting devotees of Chardham Yatra

Appeal

- Pilgrims coming to Char Dham are requested to do mandatory registration online.
- Permission for Chardham Yatra will not be given without registration.
- After registration, visit to the Dham will be allowed only on the day mentioned in registration
- Offline registration of Char Dham Yatra has been closed till May 31, 2024. Only online registration is being done.
- Do not use single use plastic during yatra.

Means of registration

registrationandtouristcare.uk.gov.in | +91-8394833833 (Type 'yatra' on WhatsApp)

Toll Free Number 0135 1364 | Download App: **touristcareuttarakhand**




Contact for more information:

Phone No. 0135-1364, 0135-2559898, 0135-2552627 | E-mail : touristcare.uttarakhand@gmail.com




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Union Bank of India

ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH

2/3, Raja Building, N.R Road, Bengaluru -560 002. E-mail : ubin0555991@unionbankofindia.bank

Contact No: 8369255990, 080-29570555

APPENDIX-IV-A

[See Proviso to Rule 8(6) of Security Enforcement Rules, 2002]

Notice of 15 days for sale of immovable secured assets under Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with the provision of Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) mentioned below that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru/ concerned branches. Secured Properties will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis, by Public E-Auction on 12.06.2024 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM for recovery of dues as mentioned below together with future interest and legal other expenses due to the bank/Secured Creditor from respective borrowers. The Reserve Price for Property, the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Description of Property etc., are given below.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower/Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Description of the Property	Amount Due	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
1	1. Mr. B Pradeep Kumar, 2. Mr. C Balaji 3. Balaji Jayakanthan, All are residing at: #127/2 Temple Court Apartment, Bull Temple Road, K.G Nagar, Bangalore-560019. Also at: Flat No 103, 1st Floor, MSR Nigam Apartment 50, 1st Main, TATA Silk Farm, Bangalore.	Schedule A: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property Bearing Site No.50 Present BBMP Katha No.3 Old PID No.59-30-3 New PID No.167-W0050-11, Old Ward No.59, New Ward No.167, Situated At 1st Main Road, Tata Silk farm ,Bangalore, Measuring East To West 50 Feet And North To South 80 Feet In All Measuring 4000 Sq Ft and bounded on the East by : Site No.51, West by : Site No.49, North by : 1st main Road, South by : Site No.38. Schedule B: All that Piece and Parcel of Apartment bearing No.103 first floor, in the apartment building known as "MSR NIGAM" measuring 1700 sq feet of super built up area along with 450 sq ft of undivided share, right, title and interest with vitrified tiles flooring together with one covered car parking space, constructed on Schedule A property along with all the rights in the common areas and easement.	Rs.1,39,54,153.17 (Rupees One Crore Thirty Nine Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand One Hundred Fifty Three and Seventeen Paise only) as on 30/04/2024	Rs. 92,34,000/- (Rupees Ninety Two Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand only)	Rs. 9,23,400/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Four Hundred only)
2	1. M/s Janatha Traders, No.506, 9th Cross , BDA Land, APMC Yard, Yeshwanthapur, Bangalore -560022. Represented by its Prop. Smt N N Savithra Bai. Mrs. Savithrabai N N W/o N Nagaraj Shetty, Old Main Bazar, Near Sri Virabhadreshwar Temple, Raichur, Sindhnanur, Karnataka-584128 Mr. Nagaraj Setty Nadang No. 14, 14th Main Road, 8th Cross, Ganesh Block, Near Tent Road, Nandini Layout, Bangalore -560096.	All that piece and Parcel of Site bearing No. 506, (BDA Land), situated at A.P.M.C. Yard, Yeshwanthapur Bangalore-560022, measuring 30-0 X 60-0 Feet and bounded by the following boundaries East by: Site No. 505, West by: Site No. 507, South by: Site No. , Factory Compound Wall North by: 60 Ft Road.	Rs.2,17,66,391.45 (Rupees Two Crore Seventeen Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Three Hundred Ninety One and Forty Five Paise Only) as on 30/04/2023	Rs. 82,17,000/- (Rupees Eighty Two Lakhs Seventeen Thousand only)	Rs. 8,21,700/- (Rupees Eighty Two Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
3	M/s Kaveri Enterprises, Represented by its proprietor P N Shashikala, Registered office at : No. 1496, Site No. 268, 1st Floor, Canara Bank Building, Begum Bangalore-560068. 2. P.N Shashikala W/o N V Nanda Kishore Residing at No. 37/2, Appayanna Lane, Near Lalbagh Main Gate, Doddamavalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore -560004. 3. Mr. N V Nanda Kishore, S/o Late M. S Venkatesh, Residing at No. 37/2, Appayanna Lane, Near Lalbagh Main Gate, Doddamavalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore -560004. Also at : 3. Mr. N V Nanda Kishore S/o Late M. S Venkatesh, Flat No. G-01, Keerthi Laasya, 3rd Main Road, Sarakki , JP Nagar Ist Phase, Bangalore -560078.	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing residential vacant site. 213, Old Khatha No. 627, New BBMP Khatha No. 2616/602/627/113/213, Converted Sy.,113, (duly converted by the special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, vide Conversion Order No. B.Dis.ALN.SR(S)135/1981-82, Dated 21.08.1981), situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under BBMP limits, measuring East to West Northern Side 60 Feet, Southern Side 90 Feet and North to South 60 Ft., totally measuring 4500 sq.ft., together with all rights appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on :- East by : Private Property, West by: Road, North by : Site No. 214, South by : Site No. 212.	Rs. 1,26,70,263.20/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Six Lakhs Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Three and Twenty Paise only) as on 30/04/2024	Rs.1,05,22,575 (Rupees One Crore Five Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy Five Only)	Rs. 10,52,258/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Eight Only)
4	1. Sri Kuppanna S Rathod S/o Sita Ram, Flat No.001, Ground Floor, "Ashirvad" House List No. 260/102/52, 16th Cross Street, Neeladrinagar, Doddathouguru Bengaluru-560100 Also at: Sri Kuppanna S Rathod S/o Sita Ram, Sasargang Tanda, Post Rumangudi -585324, Chincholi Tq, Gulbarga Dist. Also at: Sri Kuppanna S Rathod S/o Sita Ram, No.9, 3rd Main, Jnanajyothi Nagar, Ullal Main Road, Bangalore-560056, Karnataka. 2. Smt. Archana W/o Kuppanna S Rathod Flat No.001, Ground Floor, "Ashirvad", House List No. 260/102/52 16th Cross Street, Neeladrinagar, Doddathouguru, Bengaluru -560 100. Also at: Smt. Archanda W/o Kuppanna S Rathod, E/247, Rajapura (Jagat) Rajapur, gulbarga -585105. Smt. Archana W/o Kuppanna S Rathod No.9, 3rd Main, Jnanajyothi Nagar, Ullal Main Road, Bangalore-560056, Karnataka.	All that piece and parcel of Site bearing H L No. 260/102/52, Katha No. 5704/102/52, situated at Doddathoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 60 Feet and North to South 80 Feet admeasuring 4800 Square feet, and bounded on the old Sy.No. 102 (New Sy.No. 102/2); East by : Remaining portion of the same site ,retained by Thavamani Gangadhar Pillai, West by : 80 feet road, North by : property no. 53; South by : Road Schedule B: 246 Sq.Ft of undivided share, right title and interest out of A schedule property and the residential apartment bearing no. 001 in Ground Floor, 2BHK having super built up area of 1115 Sq.ft and with one covered car parking space in the stilt floor, including proportionate share in common areas such as lobbies, passages, lifts, staircase and contained in the apartment building known as "AASHIRVAD" constructed out of solid concrete block and main door having Teak Wood and other doors frames with Sal wood frames inside flush doors and aluminum windows and having vitrified flooring having separate electricity and common water and sanitation including all common rights etc., East by : Open to sky, West by : Corridor and Flat No. 004, North by : Open to sky South by : Flat No. 002.	Rs. 43,12,312/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Twelve Thousand Three Hundred Twelve only) as on 30/04/2024	Rs. 29,07,000/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Seven Thousand only)	Rs. 2,90,700/- (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
5	1. Mr. Amal Raj K No.210, 3rd Floor, 1st Main, Bapuji Nagar, Mysore Road, Bangalore -560026. 2. Deepak Kumar M G 115, Old Township, Vimanapura, HAL Quarters, Near HAL Hospital, Bangalore -560070.	All that piece and parcel of apartment bearing no. 109, 4th Floor in the apartment building known as "MSR Nigam", measuring 1700sq.ft of super built up area with vitrified tiles flooring together with one covered car parking space and 400 Sq.Ft of undivided right, title and interest on property situated at property no. 50, present BBMP Katha No. 3, New PID No. 167-W0050-11, New Ward No. 167, 1st main Road, Tata Silk Farm, Bangalore. Bounded by: East :Site No.51, West : Site No. 49, North : 1st Main Road, South : Site No. 38.	Rs.1,90,06,980.17 (Rupees One Crore Ninety Lakhs Six Thousand Nine Hundred eighty and Paise Seventeen Only)	Rs. 91,62,000.00 (Rupees Ninety One Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Only)	Rs. 9,16,200.00 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Two hundred Only)
6	Late Dhanalakshmi K (Since deceased, Representing by Legal hier Vedashree and any other Legal hieres) Mrs. Vedashree D/o Srinivasa Murthy Dhanalakshmi K, 23/1, 4th Cross, Kempapura Agraharam, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023. Also at: Mrs. Vedashree D/o Srinivasa Murthy, 824, First Floor, 6th D Cross, Prakashnagar, 3rd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore -560010.	All the piece and parcel of entire First Floor in residential building measuring 927.19 Sq.Ft of super builtup area together with 386.66 Sq.ft of undivided share, right, title and interest in property bearing BDA No. 824, New Municipal No. 824/7, PID No. 23-43-7, situated at 6th D Cross, Prakash Nagar, 3rd Stage, Rajajinagar, BBMP Ward No. 23, Bangalore with common rights over passage, staircase, open terrace, lobbies etc flooring : Granite. Bounded on : East by : Property No. 823, West by : Property No. 825, North by : Road, South by : Property no. 904 and 905.	Rs. 45,95,989.50 (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Nine and Fifty Paise only) as on 30/04/2024	Rs. 27,54,000 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand only)	Rs. 2,75,400 (Rupees Two Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred only)
7	Mr. Nayaz Ahmed S/o Farooq Ahmed No. 11, 3rd, Mohammadan Block, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018 Mrs. Sumaiya Anjum W/o Nayaz Ahmed No. 11, 3rd, Mohammadan Block, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018	All that piece and parcel of residential flat no. 104, First Floor, "UNIK PARADISE" Apartment, having super built up area of 900 Sq.Ft along with one covered Two Wheeler Parking space and 205 Sq.Ft of undivided share, right, title and interest in property situated at property bearing New BBMP No. 8, PID No. 95-349-8, , Old ward no. 95, New ward no. 32, BBMP (formerly Site No. 43 in Assessment Nos 11/1, 12/3, Katha No. 1378) and contagious property bearing Site No. 43A in Assessment No. 11/1, 12/3, Katha No. 1379, 4th Cross, 2nd Block, Krihshnappa Layout Shampura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk bounded as follows; East by : Road, West by : Property No. 40 & 41, North by : Property No.44, South by : Property No. 42.	Rs. 47,18,922.67 (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Two and Sixty Seven Paise only) as on 30/04/2024	Rs. 39,53,000 (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Only)	Rs. 3,95,300 (Rupees Three Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Three Hundred only)
8	1. Suseelamma H, Address 1: W/o Senthil Kumar, K.No 17/331, 2nd Main, Ayyappa Nagar, K.R Puram, Bengaluru Address 2 : Site No 17, Old Khatha No 251/47 & 251, Present Khatha No 379, Hoodi Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore 560048 M/s Phoenix Security Services, 17,11th Main, Old Post Office Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore 560062 M/s Phoenix Security Services, No 12/4, Angadi, Muniswamamappa Garden, Agara Lake, Hooramavu, Bangalore 560043	Schedule A : All that piece and parcel of property bearing House No.17, Site No.17, Old Katha 251/47 & 251, New Katha No.379, 2nd main Road, Ayyappa Nagar 2nd block, Hoodi Village, Krishnarajapuram, Hobli, Bangalore-560048. East by : Road, West by : Site No: 26, North by : Site No.16, South by : Site No.18 Schedule A : All that piece and parcel of property bearing House No. 104, LIG 1st Stage, Kengeri Satellite Town, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and measuring East to West 60 Feet and North to South : 40 Feet and bounded on : East by : House No.119 MIG, West by : Road, North by : House No. 105, South by : House No. 103.	Rs.89,46,516.06/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighteen and Six Paise only) as on 30/04/2024	Rs.1,09,31,00.00 (Rupees One Crore Nine Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Only)	Rs.10,93,100.00 (Rupees Ten Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand One Hundred Only)
9	1. M/s Al Tech Engineering #18/23, 1st Floor, Marenhalli, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040. 2. Patner 1. Mr. M I Usman Ali, S/o B Ibrahim (Since Deceased) Mrs. Abida Begum, W/o Late Mr. M I Usman Ali and other known and unknown Legal Heir (s) Legal Representative(s), successors and Assigns of Late M I Usman Ali #18/23, 1st Floor, Marenhalli, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040. 3. Patner 2. B.N Venkataraju S/o B V Narayana, Flat No. 109, 1st Floor, Redstone Fortune Apartment, Dodd Gollarahalli, Nagadevanahalli, Kengeri, Bangalore-560060. Also residing at: B.N. Venkataraju House No.104, LIG 1st stage, Kengeri Satellite Town, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.		Rs.1,00,24,821.60 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Four Lakh Eight Hundred Twenty One and Sixty Paise Only) as on 30.04.2024	Rs. 1,74,93,300/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy Four Lakhs Ninety-Three Thousand Three Hundred Only)	Rs. 17,49,330/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Only)

The above said properties will be sold by "Online". Online E-Auction will be held through web portal/website www.mstcecommerce.com on the date and time mentioned above with unlimited extension of 10 minutes. The intending bidders / purchasers required to register through <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/lbapi/index.jsp> using their mobile number and valid KYC documents and Bank Details. The intended bidder may contact the Branch Manager of Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru Contact No. 8369255990, 080-29570555 for inspection of property and also visit the above mentioned website for ascertaining the details of auction.

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 25.05.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.



Can Fin Homes Ltd

No. 69, (Old No 35), 12th Main, Jayanagar, Bangalore -560011
Ph: 080-26630776/26630501/26654305.
Mob: 7625079101
E-mail Id: jayanagar@canfinhomes.com
CIN:L85110KA1987PLC008699

JAYANAGAR BRANCH

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer the advertisement of "Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property" dated 22.05.2024 of Borrowers Mr.Prakash Philip (Borrower) Mrs. Kavitha Rajappan (Co-Borrower) published on 23.05.2024 in The New Indian Express and Samyuktha Karnataka, Bangalore Edition. Reserve Price of the property may please read as **Rs.33,40,000/-** instead of Rs.34,40,000/- and EMD as **Rs.3,40,000/-** instead of Rs.3,44,000/- All other terms & conditions mentioned remain same.
Date: 25.05.2024
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.,



Can Fin Homes Ltd

Sri.Annapoorneshwari Complex, Above Canara Bank,B.G.S. Road, Bangalore - 562109, Ph: 080-2728250
Mob: 7625079189
e-mail Id: bidadi@canfinhomes.com
CIN No. L85110KA1987PLC008699

Bidadi Branch

APPENDIX- IV-A

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Sale notice for sale of immovable property

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Bidadi Branch, will be sold by holding e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **01-07-2024**, for recovery of **Rs.33,45,756/-** (Rupees Thirty three lacs forty five thousand seven hundred and fifty six only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from **Mr. Vishakantegowda and Mrs.Saraswathi** (Borrowers) and **Mr. Dhananjaya G.T.**(Guarantors), as on 25-05-2024, together with further interest and other charges thereon.

The reserve price will be **Rs. 60,10,000/-** (Rupees Sixty lacs ten thousand only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.6,01,000/-** (Rupees Six lacs one thousand only)

Description of the Immoveable Property

All that part and parcel of residential property of southern portion of site no 7A formed in old assessment no.77/10, new no.112, situated at Srigandhakavali village, Yeshwanthpur hobli, Bangalore, Measuring east to west 50ft and north to south 15ft with total area measuring 750 sqft and same is bounded on East by Road , West by site no .2, North by Remaining portion of Same site no.7A, and South by site no.7(Nanjappa's property)

Encumbrances : NIL

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (<https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx>) Link for participating in e-auction : <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

Date: 25.05.2024
Place : Bidadi



Can Fin Homes Ltd

586, 2nd Floor, 80ft Rd, 8th Block, Near Police Station, Opp. Bethany School Koramangala, Bangalore-560095
koramangala@canfinhomes.com
Mob:7625079131/7625079457
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

Koramangala Branch

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

[proviso to rule 8(6)]

E-Auction SALE NOTICE for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Koramangala Branch, will be sold by holding E-Auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **29/06/2024**, for recovery of **Rs.17,96,458/-** (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Eight Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from **Mr. Jayakumar K and Mrs. K Saraswathi** (Borrowers) and **Mr. Datchinamorthy** (Guarantor), as on 25/05/2024, together with further interest and other charges thereon.

The reserve price will be **Rs. 42,80,000/-** (Rupees Forty Two Lakh Eighty Thousand Only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.4,28,000/-** (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Only)

Description of the Immoveable Property

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Eastern portion of Site No.12, Carved out of property No.8, Khatha No.8 situated at Nimbekaipura Village, Bidarahlali Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring East to west-25 ft, North to South: 35ft totally measuring 875 Sq ft and bounded on East by : 25 Ft. Road, West by : Portion of Same Site No.12, North by : 25 Feet Road and South by: Site No.13

Encumbrances : Nil

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (www.canfinhomes.com) Please refer to the following link https://www.canfinhomes.com/search_auction.aspx Link for participating in e-auction : <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.,

Place: Bangalore
Date: 25.05.2024



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Can Fin Homes Ltd

No. 69, (Old No 35), 12th Main, Jayanagar, Bangalore -560011
Ph: 080-26630776/26630501/26654305.
Mob: 7625079101
E-mail Id: jayanagar@canfinhomes.com
CIN:L85110KA1987PLC008699

JAYANAGAR BRANCH

NOTICE

Mr.Punith R., S/o Rajendra K., & Mr.Rajendra K., S/o Kyathappa, No. 42/1, 1st Floor, RHB Colony, Garudacharpalya, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048 have availed financial assistance from us by mortgaged property bearing Eastern Portion of Site No.24,Katha No.219, Property No.47 Situated at Lakshmi Sagar Layout,Near RHB Colony, Mahadevapura Village,K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore east Taluk,previously Mahadevapura CMC Now Comes Under BBMP Limits Bangalore ,for auction under SARFAESI Act on 25-05-2020 and the property was sold for Rs.40,60,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only)The sale proceeds (amount received through sale of above secured asset/s) were adjusted towards your subject loan account/s. We wish to inform that, after adjustment of sale proceeds to your loan account/s, there is an excess amount of **Rs. 18,90,410/-** (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Ninety Thousand Four Hundred and Ten) We request you to collect the surplus sale proceeds from the undersigned (with your original KYC documents) within a period of 10 days from receipt of this notice, failing which, the amount shall stand forfeited and no claims in this regard shall be entertained.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.,

Date: 25.05.2024
Place : Bengaluru



HOSAKOTE BRANCH

Bangalore Rural.

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immoveable Property) [See rule 8 (1)]

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Central Bank of India, HOSAKOTE BRANCH** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12), (13/2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **21.02.2024**, calling upon the borrower **Mr. Siddeshappa S/o. Late Muni Venkappa** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 28,88,873/-** (In words Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Three Only) and plus interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this **20th day of May of the year 2024**.

The borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Central Bank of India, HOSAKOTE BRANCH** for an amount **Rs. 28,88,873/-** (In words Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Three Only) and plus interest and charges thereon (Less amount remitted after NPA date if any). The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY :

Owner of Mortgage Property : **Mr. Siddeshappa S/o Late Muni Venkappa**, All that residential property bearing V.P Khatha No. 94/44, (Laidout in old sy.No.71 Bommanabade Village), situated at Bommanabade Village, Jagidenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, within the limits of khajihosahalli Village Panchayat. Measurements : East to West : 60 Ft, North to South : 50ft, **Boundaries : East :** Properties of Sri Govindappa, **West :** By Road, **North :** Kenchappa's Property, **South :** Ramappa's Property.

Date: 20.05.2024
Place: Hosakote

Sd/-Authorised Officer
Central Bank of India



The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,

H.O, No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560 018.
Phone: 26677552, 26679041

Auction sale under the securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforce of Security Interest Act 2002

Section 13(4) of the Immoveable properties mortgaged to The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., is brought to Sale under "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" and "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION". Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer.

Name of the Borrower	Discription of Property	Balance Outstanding	Auction Date
1 Smt. Grace Mishra W/o Late K.K.Mishra No.4/1, Rathan Singh Road Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005 Surety: Smt Theresa Peter	Apartment bearing No.H in the 3 rd Floor, Super Built Up Area measuring 875 Square feet, with 142 undivided share in land and one scooter parking space in the portico area, constructed on property bearing Nos.17 and 17/1 (old No.7), PID Nos.80-5-17 and 80-5-17/1, situated at Pettigrew Street Civil Station, Bangalore. Measuring East to West: 35'6" ft., and North to South: 47'9" ft., totally measuring 1695 sq ft., and bounded on East by: Property bearing old No.6, Pettigrew Street, West by: Property bearing No.8 Pettigrew Street, North by: Pettigrew Street & South by: Private property of Todd Lane. Reserve Price of Property : Rs.30,11,000/- (10% is Rs.3,01,100/-).	Rs.6,00,771/- Upto 22.05.2024	27.06.2024 Thursday at 11.00 a.m
2 Sri V.R.Ramesh Babu S/o Sri V.Venkatesh No.J 289/1, 1st Main 4th Cross, J.C.Nagar Main, Mahalakshimpura Bengaluru-560 086 Surety: Smt Fowzia Begum M	All that piece and parcel of the Western portion of the property bearing New No.69/1, old No-19, earlier No.69, situated at 15 th Cross Road, Muthyalanagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, BBMP Limit, Ward No.2, Jalahalli.PID No.2-63-69/1, Bangalore. Measuring East to West: 18 ft., and North to South:34.25 ft., totally measuring 616.5 sq.ft., and bounded as East by: Remaining portion of the Site No.19, Municipal No.69, West by: Road, North by: Site No.20 & South by: Road. Reserve Price of Property : Rs.60,47,100/- (10% is Rs.6,04,710/-).	Rs.46,26,261/- Upto 22.05.2024	27.06.2024 Thursday at 11.30 a.m

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The public auction will be conducted in the premises of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Head Office No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.
- For participation in the auction the intending bidders have to deposit an amount equivalent to 10% of the Reserve price of the property being auctioned deposit by means of Demand Draft/Pay Order drawn in favour of M/s.The Grain Merchant's Co-Operative Bank Ltd., The cautioned deposit shall be forfeited by the bank without any prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale, time and commits default in any manner.
- The Property "SHALL NOT" be sold below the reserve price.
- In case the bidder is not successful the EMD amount shall be refund without interest.
- The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD) within 24 Hours after the auction sale, in Cash or Demand Draft and the balance of the Sale price within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. In case of default by the successful bidder, all the amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited without notice and the property shall be put for re-auction.
- The successful bidder shall bear the statutory dues/taxes/charges/property tax/electricity charges/water charges/conveyance charges such as stamp duty, registration fee etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his favour, as per the applicable laws.
- The authorized officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all if the tender or bid/offer and/or adjourn/postpone/ cancel the auction sale without assigning any reason, and also to modify an or all terms and conditions of the sale without prior notice.
- The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.
- The property can be inspected by the intending bidder between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. at his/her expenses at the address mentioned in the schedule.
- The property is put for sale on "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" AND "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION" the intending bidder shall satisfy himself about the title,ownership,share, statutory approvals, encumbrances etc. of the property.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Bengaluru-18

Place: Bangalore
Date: 22.05.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby notified that our client Mr. Veeresh Kumar H.N. is the absolute owner of the Property bearing Site No.683 formed in A-block of the layout of The Ministry of Communications Employees' Co-op Housing Society Ltd situated at Sahakara Nagara, Kodigehalli, Kothihosahalli & Byatarayanapura Villages, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk; measuring East to West: (41.2+40.8)/2ft., and North to South: (30+29.11)/2 ft., totally measuring 1225.25 Sq.ft., he has purchased the same from Mr. K. T. Mathew s/o Mr. Thomas under Sale Deed dated 21/07/2023, Document No.BYP-1-05199-2023-24 registered before Sub-Registrar, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

I, SANGANNA JERIS S/o Kotrappa KHB Colony Near Gulburga now at Suryanagar, Chandapura post Anekal Taluk is declaring that I have lost all Original Documents pertaining to Property No **EWS 1652/B VACANT SITE WIDE NO.SNR-11/EWS/1652/B/ALT/05/2010-11(2)** have lost above documents this is to inform gen public apply for alternate before competent authorities.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SRI RAGHAVAMP** is the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and he has lost original Allotment Letter dated 15/04/1999 issued by Bangalore Development Authority in the name of **Sri.M.V.Parthasarathy in respect of the Schedule "B" Property, pertaining to the schedule property** in case anybody having any claims or in possession of the said document, shall inform the under signed and handover the same within SEVEN DAYS from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of the immovable property bearing Block No.MG 42A, situated at Nandini Layout, Bangalore-560096, measuring about 1120.00 square meters together and abounded on: East by :Road, West by : Road, North by: Vacant land, South by :MF 43,

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of the Flat bearing No.**MF 43A/4, BBMP** Katha No.MF43A/4, ground floor, BDA Apartments, Nandini Layout, Bangalore, in the building constructed on the Schedule-A Property, having super built up area of 100.85 square meters, together with 1/12th undivided share, right title and interest in the Schedule-A Property including 1/12th undivided right and interest in common areas and terrace of the said building MF 43A, and abounded on: East by: Circular Road, West by : Unit No.1, North by: Unit No.3, South by: Block No. 43,

N.JAGADESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.30/1, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross, Near Nir Colony Bus Stand, Opp. Hotel Dwaraka, Bangalore-560019.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that Page 9 & 10 of the Original Sale Deed dated 11/07/1995, Registered as No. 2955, in Book-I, Volume 1988, Pages 175 to 18, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore, executed by, has been lost/misplaced. Certified copies of the same have been obtained and also I have lodged necessary Police Complaint vide No. 1008230. Finders please contact the undersigned at the address mentioned below. Any future transaction in the absence of the said original Deeds misplaced, shall be on the basis of the certified copies of the same deeds, in any manner may file their objections to the undersigned within SEVEN DAYS from the date of publication of notice served with documentary proof where after no such claims will be entertained and my clients will proceed with the purchase of the said property.

Mrs. SAYAR BENGANI
No.7/1, Lakshmi Road
Shantinagar, Bangalore- 560027

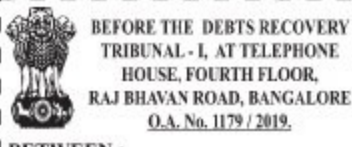
PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that, my client **Kiran Reddy S/o P.Narandhan Reddy**, aged about 40 years, R/At No.154/4, Peddanna Reddy Layout, 1st cross, Hornavau main Road, Banaswadi outer ring road, Kalyana Nagar, Bangalore-43 has lost documents mentioned below:
1. Property Original sale deed dated: 01-02-1985 document No./Identification No. 2622/1984-85 which is registered in the office of sub registrar at Hosakote.
2. Property Original(GA)dated: 15-04-1991 document No./Identification No. 3/1991-92, volume No.24, Book No.4, page No.223-225 which is registered in the office of sub registrar at Hosakote.
3. Property Original sale deed dated: 24-04-1991 document No./Identification No. 213/1991-92, volume No.1875, Book No.3, page No.95-98 which is registered in the office of sub registrar at Hosakote.

Whereas, the Application has instituted as application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and recovery of a sum of **Rs. 25,51,076.95 (Rupees Twenty five Lacs Fifty One Thousand Seventy Six and ninety-five paise only)** together with Current and For other relief's. The above mentioned defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before the tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of the defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on Day of **26.06.2024** at **11.00 A.M.** as to why relief prayed for should not be granted. Take Notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **6th day of May, 2024.**

Prashanth M Advocate
OFFICE AT NO.2, 1st floor,
Durmasthala complex, Near to Five star, near court, Ambale Road,
Anekal Town, Bangalore urban Dist-562106
Ph No: 855303212

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SEJUNIMDSRAELI



BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, AT TELEPHONE HOUSE, FOURTH FLOOR, RAI BHAI NARAYAN, BANGALORE O.A.No.1179/2019.
BETWEEN :
Punjab National Bank (erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce)
Circle SASTRA Bangalore east,
Rabeja Sastri, First Floor,
26-27, M.G. Road, Bangalore - 560001.
Represented by its Chief Manager
Sri. V.S. Sundara raman
Aged about 57 years,
Mob : 8310947264
Email : cs8197@oabc.co.in
PAN.No. AAACP0165G
RTGS Inward A/c No. 15634015002481
Applicant
and
M/s Mahaveer Luminaries,
Defendant
Summons Issued Under Rule 23 (VII) Of The Debts Recovery Tribunal (procedure) Rules 1993.
To :
M/s Mahaveer Luminaries,
Prop: Sri. Sunil Modi
Aged about 54 years,
Son of Late B.S. Modi,
No. 16/5, 3rd Cross, Ashwath Katte Road, Kasturba Nagar, Old Tolgate, Mysore Road, Bangalore -560026.
PAN.No. AAVPM9030D
Mob:93437553878
Whereas, the Application has instituted as application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and recovery of a sum of **Rs. 25,51,076.95 (Rupees Twenty five Lacs Fifty One Thousand Seventy Six and ninety-five paise only)** together with Current and For other relief's. The above mentioned defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before the tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of the defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on Day of **26.06.2024** at **11.00 A.M.** as to why relief prayed for should not be granted. Take Notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **6th day of May, 2024.**

Registrar,
Debts Recovery Tribunal - I,
Bangalore-560001.

Can Fin Homes Ltd
586, 2nd Floor, 80ft Rd, 8th Block, Near Police Station, Opp. Bethany School Koramangala, Bangalore-560095 koramangala@canfinhomes.com Mob:7625079131/7625079457 CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
[proviso to rule 8(6)]
E-Auction SALE NOTICE for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Koramangala Branch, will be sold by holding E-Auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **29/06/2024**, for recovery of **Rs.13,20,544/-** (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Twenty thousand Five Hundred and Forty Four Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from Mr. Jayakumar K and Mrs. K Saraswathi(Borrowers) and Mr. Datchinamorthy (Guarantor), as on 25/05/2024, together with further interest and other charges thereon.
The reserve price will be **Rs. 30,60,000/-** (Rupees Thirty Lakh Sixty Thousand Only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.3,06,000/-** (Rupees Three Lakh Six Thousand Only)

Description of the Immovable Property
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Western portion of Site No.12, Carved out of property No.8, Khattha No.8 situated at Nimbekaipura Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring East to West:19 ft, North to South:35ft totally measuring 665 Sq ft and bounded on East by :Remaining Portion of Same Site No.12, West by : Private Property, North by: 25 Feet Road and South by: Site No.13

Encumbrances : Nil
The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (www.canfinhomes.com). Please refer to the following link https://www.canfinhomes.com/search_Auction.aspx Link for participating in e-auction : <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>

Place: Bangalore
Date: 25.05.2024

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.,

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client Mr. **Chandra Kumar T S** Targavel Residing at No.43, 4th Cross, 2nd main road pele statue Gowthamapuram Halasuru, Bangalore-560008 here by informs that the original Mortgageed, Doc No-818/99-2000 Book-I page No-1 to 18, the document has been misplaced/Lost while travelling My client has lodged a police Complaint No.1065773/2024 on 23/05/24 Any Person/s are found the aforesaid document may return to our office.

MHK LAW ASSOCIATES
No.613, 10th A Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011
Mob:- 9663749364

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client intends to purchase and enter into Joint Development Agreement, with its respective Land Owners, in respect of property details below all situated at **Kuganahalli Village, Doddabellavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Sl.No	Survey No	Measuring
1)	Sy.No.165 (old No.55PT)	1A4 Guntas
2)	Sy.No.79/1	29 Guntas
3)	Sy.No.79/2	1A10 Guntas
4)	Sy.No.79/16	1A30 Guntas
5)	Sy.No.78/5	1A15 Guntas
6)	Sy.No.78/6	15 Guntas
7)	Sy.No.78/7A	20 Guntas
8)	Sy.No.78/7B	1A2 Guntas
9)	Sy.No.78/8A	1A4 Guntas
10)	Sy.No.78/10	13 Guntas
11)	Sy.No.78/11	13 Guntas
12)	Sy.No.78/12	39 Guntas
13)	Sy.No.78/8B	13 Guntas
14)	Sy.No.77/1	1A8 Guntas
15)	Sy.No.77/2	2A21 Guntas
16)	Sy.No.77/4	33 1/2 Guntas
17)	Sy.No.77/5	1A 7 Guntas
18)	Sy.No.76/1	9 Guntas
19)	Sy.No.76/2	2A21 Guntas
20)	Sy.No.76/4	1A20 Guntas
21)	Sy.No.76/5	20 Guntas
22)	Sy.No.76/8	1A
23)	Sy.No.76/8	1A
24)	Sy.No.72/1	8A5 Guntas
25)	Sy.No.72/3	6A
26)	Sy.No.77/3	20 Guntas
27)	Sy.No.17/5	30 Guntas
28)	Sy.No.17/4	30 Guntas

Persons having any right over the their respective Schedule Properties may lodge their claims with documentary evidence within 7 days from publication of this notice to the undersigned.

SRIHARSHAN ASSOCIATES, Advocate
Jyothi Rajesh
No. UG-650, 3rd Floor, Near Hoskote Police Station, KHB Colony, Hoskote Town, Bangalore-562114 Ph.8553324236 Mail: srisharshan2019@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

That the attention of general public is drawn that my clients (1) **M/S. ADVANCED PRECISION ENGINEERING COMPANY** at No.22, 9th Cross, Doddanna Industrial Estate, Near Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560091, Represent by its Partners' (2) **Mr. VARADHARAJU. M** (Adhar No. : 4162 3675 3906) S/o.Mariyappa, aged about 47 years, (3) **MR. KAJA SHEREFF** (Adhar No. : 4402 9150 5657) S/o. Amir Jan aged about 48 years, we have intended to purchase the schedule mentioned property From **Sri. M. Ramakrishnappa**, S/o Late Muniyappa and **D. H. Rayappa** S/o.Doddiah both are residing at Sunkadakatte Village, Magadi Main Road Viswanedam Post, Bangalore-91, and they have executed a General Power of Attorney on 15/10/1994 in favour of **Smt. H. S. Indira** W/o/H. P. Nagaraju, aged about 57 years, R/At "Gayatri Nilaya", 4th Main Road, Gandhinagara, Tumakuru-572 101, (Vendors), which is registered as Document No.1456/1994-95, Book-IV, Volume No.158, Page No.155-157 at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, for selling the property bearing No.14, formed in Sy.No.73, Situated at Sunkadakatte Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 103+94/2 feet and North to South : 40' Feet, and it is purchased from their vendor Sri. V. Srinivasaraju Son of Late. V. Varadaraj through registered Sale Deed dated 16-06-1993, Registered as Document No.4624/1993-94, Book-I, Volume No.4990, Page No.176-181 at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, on 08-09-1993, and for valuable sale consideration and entered in to Agreement of sale. If any legal heirs/person/Institutions having any claims, right, title or interest or share or objection over the said property may forward their objections to the undersigned within FIFTEEN days from the date of this publication/notice, failing which it will be deemed that, there are no claims, right, title or interest by anybody and my client will proceed further and complete sale transaction by register the absolute sale deed in his favour.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of House property bearing **Site No.14, formed in Sy.No.73, Situated at Sunkadakatte Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 103+94/2 feet and North to South : 40' Feet, Totally measuring 3940 Sq.Ft.** and bounded on:
East by : Doddanna Industrial Estate Compound,
West By : Road,
North By : Site No.13,
South By : Site No.15.

Address for communication:
D.G.SHANTHAPPA, Advocates
No.123, 1st Main Road, Krishnanagar Nandini Layout, Bangalore-560 096.
Place : Bangalore Date : 26.05.2024

PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
55-56 5th Floor Free Press House Nariman Point, Mumbai -400021 Tel:- 022-61884700 Email: sys@pegasus-arc.com URL: www.pegasus-arc.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE
Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Co-Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagees that the below described secured assets mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, being **M/s Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited** acting in its capacity as **Trustee of PEGASUS GROUP THIRTY-NINE TRUST 2 (Pegasus)**, having been assigned the dues of the below mentioned borrower along with underlying securities, interest by RBI, Bank Limited vide Assignment Agreement dated 30/09/2021 under the provisions of SARFAESI Act, 2002. The Authorized officer of Pegasus has taken Physical possession of the below mentioned mortgaged property on 09/01/2022 under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act and SARFAESI Rules. In view of the aforesaid the below mentioned mortgaged property will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 07/06/2024 for recovery of Rs.4,08,19,192.65 (Rupees Four Crore Eight Lakhs Nineteen Thousand and One Hundred And Ninety Two And Sixty Five Paise Only) as on 02/05/2024 together with further interest, costs, charges and expenses thereon w.e.f. 03/05/2024 due to the Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd., from **Mrs. Arfa Meraj Trading Company (Borrower) M/s. HKGN And Company, Mr. Javedulla Khan and Smt. Shazia Sultana (Co-Borrowers)**. The reserve price is as mentioned below:

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY WHICH IS BEING SOLD:	
Name of the Borrower:	M/s. Arfa Meraj Trading Company
Names of Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagees:	01. M/s.HKGN And Company, 02. Mr. Javedulla Khan, 03. Smt. Shazia Sultana
Outstanding Dues:	Rs.4,08,19,192.65 (Rupees Four Crore Eight Lakhs Nineteen Thousand and One Hundred And Ninety Two And Sixty Five Paise Only) as on 02/05/2024 together with further interest, costs, charges and expenses thereon w.e.f. 03/05/2024.
Description of property	Apartment No. B - 003, having a super built up area of 3500 Square Feet along with 20% undivided share in land i.e., 872.5 Square Feet and Car Parking in the basement floor in the building known as "Govindu Grace Garden" Katha PID No. 9231/2 formed in Property No. 8, New No.2, Benson Road, Benson Town, Bangalore owned by Mr. Javedulla Khan and Smt. Shazia Sultana Vide Registered Sale Deed Bearing No. 4829 of 2017-2018.
Reserve Price below which the property will not be sold in Rs.	Rs. 2,98,45,125/-
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in Rs.	Rs. 29,84,512.50
Claims, if any, which have been put forward against the property and any other dues known to Secured creditor and value	NA
Inspection of Properties	04/06/2024.
Contact Person and Phone No	1) Vishal Kumar Shukla Mobile No: 9591103226 2) Shankar Balasubramanian Mobile No: 8056178676 3) Vivek Arayakoti Mobile No: 996229588
Last date for submission of Bid:	10/06/2024 till 4:00 pm
Time and Venue of Bid Opening	E-Auction/Bidding through website (https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net) on 11/06/2024 from 11.00 am to 1:00 pm.

This publication is also 15 days' notice to the aforementioned Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Guarantors/Mortgagees under Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002.
For detailed terms & conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors website i.e. <http://www.pegasus-arc.com/assets-to-auction.html> for detailed terms & conditions of e-auction-sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the e-auction. Bidders may also visit the website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> or contact service provider M/s. E Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger, Bidder Support : 079-68136805/68136837 Mo. : +91 9265562821 & 9374519754, Email : vijay.shetye@auctiontiger.net, chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net @ support@auctiontiger.net

Place: Bangalore Date: 26/05/2024
PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
(Trustee of Pegasus Group Thirty Nine Trust 2)

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line Tenders are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. and Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos./Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	12241220/24.06.2024	AL. Extrusion Length =1.8M	48025.00 Kgs.	306020/-
2.	17241097/18.06.2024	Water Tank Flap With Fixing Arrangements for LHB Coaches	2419 Nos	2,93,320/-
3.	13245030B/18.06.2024	Electronic Rail Weight Bridge Cap 70 MT as per specification no. Mech/M&P/3800 GM/18 Rev. NIL [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] PL No Item Code: 656100230015	01 Nos	88140/-
4.	14241085/14.06.2024	Resin Bonded Fibre Glasswool	1854 Set	10,81,520/-
5.	02241145A/10.06.2024	1. kit for preventive maintenance C-Check shall also quote item wise rates items.	2055 Set	5000000/-
2.	Unscheduled Maintenance Items		1 Set	
3.	kit for preventive maintenance B-Check items		3510 Set	
4.	D-Check List items for cummins engine KTA 19G-10		600 Set	
6.	12241183/25.06.2024	Honeycomb Partition Frame Set with AL FR HPL Sheet For LHB SCN Coach	75 Sets	3,34,500/-
7.	17241264/20.06.2024	Set of Seating Arrangement for LHB Double Decker AC Chair Car (120 Seaters)	04 Sets	2,20,860/-
8.	17241101/20.06.2024	Set of Floor Plate for LHB Power Car EOG Coaches	119 Sets	490350/-
9.	01241179/28.06.2024	Traction Lever	8840 Nos	26,340/-
10.	14241094/17.06.2024	Fire Extinguisher with Anti-Theft Arrangement in Non AC Coaches	3845 Nos	1,02,080/-
11.	14241057/17.06.2024	Paint Synthetic Enamel	14871LTR	80720/-
12.	17241131/12.06.2024	Cable Tray, L=3M	2600 Nos	77,500/-
13.	07241270/14.06.2024	Fixing Strip For Decoupling Elements for Flooring	104730 Nos	249630/-
14.	01241175/19.06.2024	Air Spring Control Equipment for Bogle	1248 Set	2000000/-
15.	05241380/17.06.2024	Set of Roof Elements	181 Sets	158050/-
16.	05241366/26.06.2024	Sliding Door Arrgt.	42 Nos	72140/-
17.	05241369/12.06.2024	Set of Channel	335 Sets	156540/-
18.	02241226/12.07.2024	Double Inlet Centrifugal Blower	527 Nos	55030/-
19.	02241311/28.06.2024	Four Types of Thin Walled Flex Elast Cable in 25 Sqmm	49900 MTR	359770/-
20.	02241321/15.07.2024	PA System for Power Car Coach	158 Set	131850/-
21.	02241323/04.07.2024	Led Light Fittings J2, Q2, Q1 and F4	1458 Nos	66310/-
22.	02241324/27.06.2024	Led Light Fittings for Night Light with Type-E	523 Set	59080/-
23.	02241329/03.07.2024	Tail Light Led Type Flasher Unit	239 Nos	76150/-
24.	02241343/12.06.2024	Multi-Core Cable 3X1.0 SOMM	60000 MTR	233640/-
25.	02241350/17.06.2024	Bracket Assembly For LHB AC Coaches	127423 Sets	198470/-
26.	05241370/17.06.2024	Set of Berth Suspension Bracket	251 Sets	109170/-
27.	05241362/18.06.2024	Rail Ventilator Arrgt.	5668 Nos	293330/-
28.	07241270/14.06.2024	Fixing Strip for Decoupling Elements for Flooring	104730 Nos	249630/-
29.	01241203/03.07.2024	Rubber Spring Centering	6255 Nos	72330/-
30.	01241152/24.06.2024	Set of Link Pin And Nut	1163 Set	120630/-
31.	07241064/21.06.2024	Supply of SS Tubes & Double Ferrule Fittings	81 Set	1,99,000/-
32.	7241286/25.06.2024	Supply, Installation Testing & Commissioning of Stainless Steel Tubes and Double Ferrule Fittings	13 Set	62,850/-
33.	05241277/25.06.2024	Supply of Axle Mounted Disc Brake System with Installation Commissioning (2 Types)	492 Set	5000000/-

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website <http://fireps.gov.in>. Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in>. Class IIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cce.gov.in>
2. Tenders will close at 14.25 HRS. on due date and tender will be opened at 14.30 HRS. Tenders Sr. No. 1 to 10, 12 to 12 & 33 will be open at RCF Kapurthala/HSQ and Sr. No. 9, 13 & 32 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. 3. For queries, contact IREPS Help desk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF help desk at 011-23378658.
Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them.

CORRIGENDUM

Bidders may please note the following changes against 1. **Tender No. 05241182** Set of Carline for GS coach Quantity Existing Entry: 283 Sets to be read as: 368 EMD Existing Entry: Rs.536510/- to be read as: Rs.697700/- 2. **Tender No. 17241130** Due on 17.05.2024 for the Supply of SET of Aluminium Floor End Profile for Antyodaya Coach Existing Entry: 17.05.2024 To be Read as: 03.06.2024 3. **Tender No. 12241091** Due on 17.05.2024 for Retention Pin (RH) & (LH) (Two Types): Existing Entry: 17.05.2024 To be Read as: 03.06.2024 4. **Tender No. 17241190** Due on 07.06.2024 for procurement of Sets of Seats for LHB Non AC Chair Car Coaches (108 Seater) & LHB 2nd AC Chair Car Coaches (78 Seater). Eligibility criteria revised in tender. 5. **Tender No. 13245029** Due on 21.05.2024 for Procurement Design Supply, Manufacture Erection Installation Commissioning and Prove out including laying of foundation civil work of CNC Laser profile cutting machine as per spec no. MECH/M&P/433/Laser Profile cutting machine, REV.02. Existing Entry: 21.05.2024 To be read as: 04.06.2024 6. **Tender No. 17241108** Due on 24.05.2024 for Procurement of Stainless Steel Step Complete. Existing Entry: 24.05.2024 To be read as: 03.06.2024
PCMM
No. 25-S/2024-25 **Dated: 25.05.2024**

HDFC BANK
HDFC Bank Ltd, Ground Floor, Rashtrathana Bhavan, Municipal No. 3/1, Ward No 77, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore - 560001. ANNEXURE-VI (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

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SIGNAL & NOISE FROM THE POLL THEATRE AND THE ECONOMY

In 1948, Claude Shannon, the father of information theory, built upon the work of Ralph Hartley and presented to the world the Shannon-Hartley theorem. The theorem illuminated the signal to noise ratio—the power of the desired signal and the level of undesired background noise. The math riveting the theorem helped enhance telecommunications.

There is, as yet, no formula to sift and decode signal from noise in the political economy. And the effect is vividly manifest in large democracies. Public discourse—on politics and the state of the economy—is haunted by contextual interpretations of signal and noise. Indeed, the phenomenon is vividly manifest globally as #Elections2024 plays out.

Consider the interplay of noise and signal in the context of the ongoing elections. The transition in the narrative from no-questions to doubts is stark. A hundred days back, the cognoscenti had virtually called the elections. The opinion polls conducted between December and April placed the BJP-led NDA's tally between 306 and 411 seats. It was deemed a no-contest. Cut to the sixth phase of polling held on Saturday, and the conversations are about hits and misses.

The debate last week was about the quantum of losses the BJP-led alliance may incur from the peak of 2019—in Maharashtra, Bihar, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. This week, there are questions on potential gains from Odisha and Bengal—triggered by renewed campaigning by Naveen Patnaik and an aggressive campaign by Mamata Banerjee following the Calcutta High Court verdict on the inclusion of Muslims in OBC reservations in Bengal. Add the murmurs about perceived setbacks in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. An interesting entrant in the hot debate is the outcome in Andhra Pradesh, which is deemed the new black box in this election.

There is a renewed interest in the accuracy of exit polls and hyperventilation about fake exit polls in circulation. The believers cite 2014 and 2019, while the doubters cite 2004. The 2004 exit polls predicted between 230 and 275 seats for the NDA, whereas in the final results the alliance lost out to the UPA.

In conversations at morning walks, living rooms and companies, virtual Excel sheets are created and distributed. The base template of much of the speculation is a Molotov cocktail of information and opinion, rumours and memes available on social media. Noise or signal is based on the experiential and the anecdotal, and is entirely interpretative.

Any and every piece of information is fair weapon in the polarised discourse of believers and doubters. Last week, Yogendra Yadav, formerly of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and now a part of the INDI Alliance, predicted that BJP won't win a majority. This week, Prashant Kishor, member of the BJP's 2014 team, surfaced with a 300-plus seats prediction. Mind you, neither has claimed to have conducted a survey.

To paraphrase Harold Macmillan, events and utterances in the heat and dust of campaign are fuelling the rise and fall of puts and calls in the stock markets. The fact that foreign institutional investors sold over ₹27,000 crore worth of stocks has assumed both economic and political connotations. Speculation about the outcome of elections has roiled markets. Following predictions and assurances by the finance minister, home minister and prime minister, indices have yo-yoed from pessimism to record highs, with total value of Indian stocks touching \$5 trillion.

Perceptions matter in any electoral battle and scepticism has haunted reports on the well-being of Indians. The 2024 elections is verily a contest of who did better for the poor: The Congress claims it unveiled rigging, the BJP has repeatedly cited the January 2024 report by Niti Aayog which stated that 248 million people have been lifted out of multi-dimensional poverty since 2013-14. The study put the poverty headcount ratio at 11.28 percent.

The opposition countered the claim, asking for the rationale of free rations to 817 million people. In February 2024, an SBI report cited data from the NSSO's Household Consumption Expenditure Survey and argued that headline poverty in India is likely at 4.5-5 percent, which is lower than the levels in many advanced economies. The report met with much scepticism and trolling.

Such is the noise level that even established practices acquire new countenance. Last Monday, a segment of the WhatsApp universe agitated about the transfer of funds by the RBI to the government. Two days later, the RBI announced it was transferring ₹2,10,874 crore as surplus to the government for the accounting year 2023-24. The timing of the announcement acquired a political countenance. Lost in the noise was the fact that this is an annual exercise formalised following the recommendation of the Jalan Committee in 2019.

The din of high-decibel rhetoric tends to drown out facts with political fiction. This is not unique to India. The US GDP has defied predictions; its stock indices are at historic highs and unemployment at a historic low. Yet, a Guardian/Harris poll published this week shows that three in five Americans think the US economy is in recession, and 49 percent believe the S&P 500 is down and unemployment at a 50-year high.

The challenge in the oldest and the largest democracy is similar. That, though, is not a consolation, but a cautionary tale for politicians. Evidently, the narrative depends on the quality of communication.

MIGHTY MODI TAKES ON PEACEABLE PATNAIK



POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

POLITICS is a power game that's played without rules or morals. It's also the art of converting friends into foes. In the name of seeking a mandate to rule, politics can become a tool to destroy the opponent's image. Nothing else can explain the ongoing verbal war between the BJP and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Odisha. In a replay of the Kalinga war of 321 BC, on one side is the mighty Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his trained generals looking to expand their empire, no matter the cost. On the other side is gentleman-politician Naveen Patnaik and his silent sentinels who are battling quietly to retain his father's fiefdom.

The longest-surviving chief minister in India at the moment, the 77-year-old Patnaik is asking for a sixth term to govern Odisha. A measured man of frugal needs, Patnaik has turned out to be that rare politician whom even his sworn enemies would hate to hate. But now he has been drawn into his worst-ever electoral battle where identities have been weaponised, forgotten promises have been resurrected and ugly words exchanged. While he embarks upon his adamant aim of retaining power, his pertinacious opponents have launched a powerful campaign to oust him from office. And they have not chosen his work, but his physical seclusion and choice of personal aide, to attract voters. The BJP has concluded that Patnaik has lost his usual political lumenescence and invincibility.

With the Congress almost vanishing from the state, it is the BJP which smells

a possible victory by personally targeting the CM. In doing so, it has abandoned a trusted coalitionist who endorsed crucial NDA legislations in parliament. Strategically, the BJP has shifted the focus from performance to perception. Its objective is to paint the CM as a leader whose administrative skills are waning and who is surrounded by persons who don't have Odia roots.

It is for the first time that an officer-turned-politician has acquired centre-stage. V Karthikeyan Pandian, a former IAS officer who has served the CM as his man for all seasons, has been catapulted as the biggest threat to Odia identity and its cultural heritage. Married to an Odia IAS officer, Pandian is credited by his party for pulling the state out from backwardness to its current status as one of the fastest-growing states.

Since caste and regional aspirations play a decisive role in electoral outcomes, the BJP expects rich dividends by attacking the soldier than the general himself, using the old adage that you can sway a thousand men by appealing to their prejudices rather than appealing to one man's logic. Surprisingly, it was Modi who fired the first shot despite often having praised Patnaik, including barely a couple of weeks ago. But politics, sadly, is a matter of convenience. It doesn't relish the idea of compromise or accommodation, especially when it comes to attaching new territories through mergers and acquisitions. For the BJP, Odisha seems to be a new market that the party feels it can acquire as its most powerful brand, Naveen Patnaik, is facing a massive anti-incumbency wave. The BJP is expecting not only to win at least 15 of the 21 Lok Sabha seats, but

also for the first ever saffron government in the state.

So once the preliminary talks for even a symbolic alliance failed, the BJP opened its artillery from all directions. The strategy was three-fold. To begin with, minimising the Cult of Naveen Patnaik and invoke the threat of Odia cultural dilution under his rule. A look at the tenor of speeches made by BJP leaders and the response from the BJD during the campaign reveals the ugliness.

● Modi: "I want to challenge Naveen babu as he has been the CM for such a long time. Ask Naveen babu to name the districts of Odisha and their capitals without seeing them on paper. If the CM cannot name the districts of the state, will he know your pain?"

● Patnaik: "Do you remember the promises he made in the 2014 and 2019 elections? Odisha's natural wealth is coal, and you take coal from Odisha, but you have forgotten to increase the royalty in the last 10 years. The PM is remembering Odisha only at election time. You have allotted

₹1,000 crore for the development of Sanskrit, but nothing for the Odia language. You have forgotten about Odia music too. There are so many brave sons in Odisha, a few of whom the PM named during his campaigning. Don't any of them deserve the Bharat Ratna? You have given away the Bharat Ratna to so many people, but you again forgot about the great son of Odisha, Biju Patnaik."

● Home Minister Amit Shah: "This assembly election is an election of Odisha's pride. Can a Tamil rule Odisha? Can a Tamil babu run Odisha? I assure you, if you form a BJP government, a young CM from Odisha, a CM

who speaks Odia, will rule here."

● Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma: "I believe a high court judge should speak to Naveen babu alone to see if he is happy and okay. I mentioned a high court judge because they would be neutral. Once, a judge should speak to Naveen babu alone for 10 minutes."

● Patnaik to Sarma: "The per capita deficit (debt) of his state is double that of Odisha. He should really look into the matter in his own state. The people of Odisha are laughing at them... BJP CMs and central ministers are coming to Odisha and promising to make it number one in the country. I think they should first concentrate on their own states."

● Pandian: "My karmabhoomi is Odisha, while janmabhoomi may be Tamil Nadu, which I didn't choose. I am an Indian first."

Though the public discourse is personality-driven, the religious undercurrents of the campaign are quite visible as well. BJD leaders feel that the BJP is unnerved by Patnaik's soft Hindutva. While the BJP and the PM were engaged in reviving forgotten Hindu temples all over India along with the construction of the Ram temple, Patnaik evolved his own unique plans to gain the support of hardcore Hindu voters. During the past five years, the Odisha government has spent over ₹4,000 crore on renovation, reconstruction and restoration of ancient shrines dotting the state.

His masterstroke was visible when, on January 17, Patnaik dedicated to the state the ₹800-crore Shree Jagannath Heritage Corridor around the temple in Puri. It was done a week before the Ram temple was inaugurated in Ayodhya. Since then, the BJP has drafted its most powerful CMs, Union ministers and other opinion makers to turn the tide against the Odia leader who sacrificed his party's Rajya Sabha seat so that Modi could induct former IAS officer Ashwini Vaishnaw into the Union cabinet. But the BJP wants complete power in the state, and is no longer satisfied with being a marginal player. As Napoleon Bonaparte once commented: "In politics stupidity is not a handicap."



THE COSTS OF DIGITAL OVERCONSUMPTION



OPINION

GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN
Former bureaucrat and author,
most recently of *The Spell of the Rain Tree*

RECENTLY, while checking my phone storage, I realised that I have 20,000-odd photos and clips lurking in various corners. I declutter occasionally, mostly when prompted to free up space. It got me thinking on the number of photos and clips I have consumed over time.

The rise of social media and the ease of sharing digital images have been phenomenal. A recent analysis revealed that there are nearly 5 billion social media users around the world. This growth is inextricably linked to the explosion in visual media, with the short video format being extremely popular. The ease of content creation, availability of subscribers and followers, and the possibility of monetising and receiving 'gifts' are like going down a rabbit hole where there's something for everyone. A picture is said to be worth a thousand words. This potential is being harvested by social media platforms.

On the surface, it seems like a win-win situation. There is no apparent cost for

onboarding or using social media. The platform gains by penetrative marketing and personalised ads. The user gets a soapbox to become an influencer, stay entertained and informed, or make money. Images increase engagement.

Photos and videos work exceedingly well as they transcend language barriers. Researchers are working on AI tools which will generate synthetic images from text prompts. Visual perception is a primary function of the brain and an important ingredient of cognition. Visual processing is also faster than reading a sentence. Users are thus inextricably drawn into the attention economy, which harnesses the potential of distraction. Attention is the currency remitted for using social media. We are oblivious to the opportunity cost involved.

There is, of course, the other side of the coin. The ease of generating and sharing photos and videos, drone photography, AR filters and apps that generate 3D images have enhanced user experience. A large number of people describe themselves as visual learners and benefit from advances in this technology. The precision of images could supplement the nuances of language. The use of videographic evidence in solving crimes is growing.

The human race has always realised the effectiveness of visual representation. Early writing used sequences of pictograms. Their popular use continues in road signs and danger symbols. The emergence of emojis and animated gifs, which are popular in social media, add a lightness and maybe layers of meaning to text messages.

However, the disturbing trend of morphed images and deepfakes is an emerging challenge. Digital images have enabled impersonations and identity theft. The irony is that many deepfakes are AI-generated and many a time only AI can identify them. As the saying goes, set a thief to catch a thief. Deepfakes are potential tools of misinformation and disinformation, which has been flagged at the World Economic Forum as a major global risk in the coming years. They have the power to be disruptive and foment trouble in conflict zones. Even so-



The opportunity, environmental and social costs of our digital consumption are missing in public discourse. Digital minimalism is a way forward

cial media algorithms can be compromised by deepfakes through 'coordinated inauthentic behaviour' and trigger disinformation. Also, the invasion of privacy and circulation of sleaze videos of unsuspecting victims is on the rise. Is it not possible for social media platforms to block such content? Concerted steps to tackle this menace are needed involving all stakeholders including regulators and tech companies.

Most users see the generation, sharing and storage of photos and videos as an in-built feature of the smart phone. There is no need to invest in cumbersome

some devices like in the past. Further, there are apps that can organise your album and curate your memories. The dynamics of cloud storage is not something a layman really comprehends. The cloud server is a network of computers capable of humungous computational power. It needs, among other things, electricity and air conditioning, and it generates a greater carbon footprint than the airline industry. The environmental cost of our digital engagement is never debated in the public domain. We are even not aware of the process involved when we delete media from smartphones. We are lulled into a false sense of ease.

It is clear that there is an opportunity cost, an environmental cost and a social cost involved in compulsive digital engagement. We never ask ourselves whether anyone in the future is going to even glance at the hundreds of photos and selfies that we click. Content fatigue is bound to set in. To make informed choices and reduce mindless digital consumption is therefore essential at this point in time. There is value in digital minimalism. Certain measures have been imposed to keep mobile photography off bounds in some religious places, museums, forests and concert arenas. This is a welcome step. There is an irreverence in the approach of those who would forgo the synaesthesia of the moment to record a scene. There is a need for awareness regarding the effects of overconsumption of digital media. For it could well go the way of plastics—from being touted as the next big thing to being reviled.

QUOTE CORNER

The law that protects civilians in war was developed more than 100 years ago and it applies in every country regardless of the reasons for a conflict. I will never accept that one child's life has less value than another's. I do not accept that any conflict should be beyond the reach of the law, nor that any perpetrator should be above it.

Amal Clooney, barrister, recommending charges against Palestinian and Israeli leaders to the International Criminal Court as part of an expert panel

I wanted to make a film about women who leave their homes to go to work somewhere else.

Payal Kapadia, whose *All We Imagine As Light* got an 8-minute ovation at Cannes

I'm the king of a lost world! I'm the king and I will destroy you... I did this because I wanted to sing.

Javier Milei, president of Argentina, 53, at a book release party described as a 'pagan mass' and held in a 8,000-capacity arena in Buenos Aires

MAILBAG WRITE TO

Steel frame

Ref: *Other ways to remake the steel frame* (May 25). My father was a third-generation bureaucrat. Bhagwan Sahay, chief secretary of UP during 1947-49, narrated an incident that made my father one of the most trusted officers of the then CM, G B Pant. A few months after August 15, 1947, an editor-owner of a Hindi newspaper in Mainpuri district started aggressively criticising the CM. Pant told my father, then the director of information, to prosecute the editor. My father's response was, "This will be tantamount to harassment, not an honourable thing for the government to do."

Rajan Ugra, Bengaluru

Power plan

Ref: *Rise and fall of renewable energy industry in TN* (May 25). With increased power shortage this scorching summer and high tariffs hitting consumers, TNIE's timely publication of K Venkatchalam's

article deserves appreciation. It is time for Tamil Nadu to switch to the proven Gujarat model by formulating a comprehensive policy for non-conventional energy producers. The DMK lost power in 2011 mainly because of power shortages.

Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Transparency needed

Ref: *No SC directive on voter turnout data to poll body* (May 25). The EC is getting more confounded. Even the Supreme Court appears confused. The controversy was avoidable, caused largely by the opposition's adamant stance. The EC is also to blame, for it should not only be transparent but appear to be so. Here it fails. The veracity of poll processes should be thrown open for anyone's verification.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Police praise

The Kerala police team that netted the accused in the case of abducting a minor girl in Kanhangad deserves praise. They toiled for nine days to catch him by examining CCTV footage, making a sketch

and finally arresting him in a remote place in Andhra Pradesh. It proves that if the police are allowed to work without interference, they can do wonders.

Anwitaa Sajjeev, Nileshwar

Empower ICJ

Ref: *ICJ orders Israel to halt Rafah offensive* (May 25). The International Court of Justice was set up to settle international issues. Aggrieved countries should abide by its ruling. Thousands have already lost their lives in Ukraine and Gaza due to the adamant attitude of leaders. The ICJ should be empowered to arrest, prosecute and punish erring world leaders such as Putin and Netanyahu.

V K Kumar, Thiruvananthapuram

Deposit base

Ref: *Banks should improve corporate loans, keep deposit base healthy* (May 25). It's true that corporate loans are high-return, but they are high-risk too. For this reason, the RBI fixes the credit exposure cap to corporate loans at 20-25 percent. A sound base from retail deposits is evergreen for bal-

anced banking. Hence, it is important not to confine growth to corporate loans alone.

Kaliappan Palaniswami, Salem

Cash seizures

The phenomenal cash seizures at election time are a slur on our democratic process. It is obvious that money plays a massive role in electoral prospects. These cash hauls end with the arrest of innocent victims; the real perpetrators escape. The EC is neither equipped to apprehend the culprits, nor does it have the potential to reform the system. It needs a change in mindset of political parties.

Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

Outstanding development

We remember the days when we used to look on to rails and stand in buses and trains. India has developed so much in the aviation sector that the practice of standing has commenced in airlines too. India's largest airline, IndiGo, is the pioneer in this amazing development.

Anandambal Subbu, Coimbatore

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Amit Shah @AmitShah
On one side there is Congress which is embezzling public money even in times of disaster, on the other side there is BJP which is speeding up the development of Himachal.



Pawan Khera @Pawankhera
Elders say the real test of a person's character comes when he is in trouble. Seeing defeat in front, the foul language of the Prime Minister is surprising everyone.



Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
Election Commission of India is complicit! It has abandoned its own adopted Model code of Conduct! Shame on our Democracy.

Polls over, Maha bigwigs take a break & leave for cooler climes abroad

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AFTER the polling for all 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra ended on May 20, some leaders who campaigned in the scorching heat have flown to cooler countries to get some respite before the results.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and his family, and leader of Opposition and Congress MLA Vijay Wadetiwar, among other leaders, flew abroad to get relief from the boiling temperature in Maharashtra.

Sources in major parties said that many leaders, after the campaigning, decided to take a break either in Europe and England so that they can refresh themselves before the counting day.

"Politicians generally go for summer holidaying in April and May, but their scheduled tours were delayed this time as they were busy in election campaigns. Now, as they got a few days for a break, they are using it to get some respite from growing heat in India," a leader from a party said.

The Lok Sabha elections were held in five phases in Maharashtra and all five phases were over on May 20. The result is scheduled on June 4. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, "Uddhav Thackeray can afford



to go out but I as the chief minister have to be here to look after many works. I have to take measures to mitigate the drought and inspect the nullah cleaning work."

BJP Mumbai unit president Ashish Shelar criticised Uddhav for leaving the state amid drought conditions in many parts of the state. "He (Uddhav) should inspect nullah-cleaning work in London," Shelar said in a lighter vein.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Sunil Raut said, "No one has stopped CM and ruling party leaders from going abroad in summer vacations, but only condition is that they have to speak English there. These guys cannot speak English, therefore no one invited them to London."

Deputy chief ministers Ajit Pawar and Devendra Fadnis have stayed put in Maharashtra after the polls.

EC releases absolute poll numbers for 5 phases

'Pattern of false narratives to vitiate electoral process'

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

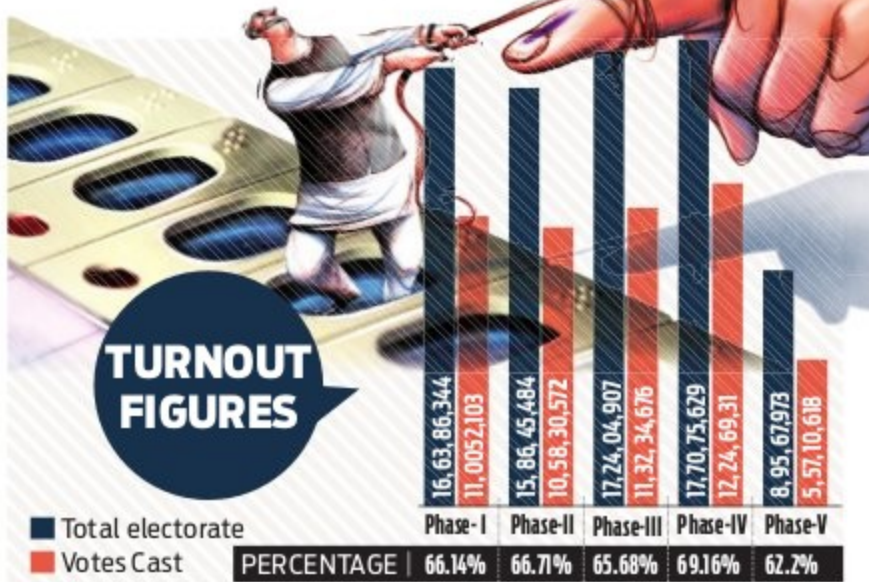
TERMING it a 'pattern of false narratives and mischievous design to vitiate electoral process', the Election Commission, while releasing the absolute number of the votes cast in the first five phases, on Saturday said that voter turnout data has always been promptly available through its app from 9.30 am on the poll days.

In an official statement, the poll panel said that it feels 'duly strengthened' by the Supreme Court verdict refusing to consider a plea to direct the Commission to publish final data on voter turnout in all polling stations on its website.

"This new format will include the absolute number of voters in each parliamentary constituency," it said, adding that it is the commission's assurance that any alteration in the number of votes polled "is impossible".

Incidentally, the commission's remarks have come after the Opposition questioned the delay in final voter turnout data release after first and second phases of polling and alleged discrepancies in them by the poll panel.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge claimed that the 'credibility' of the EC was at an "all-



EC's credibility at an all-time low: Cong

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge claimed that the 'credibility' of the Election Commission was at an "all-time low". The commission reiterated that the entire process of collection and storage of votes is rigorous, transparent and participative.

The commission, in response, reiterated that the entire process of collection and storage of votes is rigorous, transparent and participative. It added that there was a "pattern of false narratives and mischievous design to vitiate

electoral process".

"The commission and its officials across the states have been disseminating voter turnout data in the best possible manner, taking into account statutory considerations," the poll panel said.

It also pointed out that authorised agents of all candidates possess Form 17C, which records the total number of votes polled at each of the approximately 10.5 lakh polling stations across 543 parliamentary constituencies. The Commission said the total number of votes polled recorded in Form 17C cannot be altered as they are available to all contesting candidates.

Shah bats for Anurag in HP, says PoK belongs to India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shimla

HOME Minister Amit Shah addressed a massive public meeting at Amb, Hamirpur, and appealed to the people to support BJP candidate and Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur.

He also declared that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir belongs to India. "From this holy land of Mata Chintpurni, I affirm that we will take PoK. Rahul Baba and his party are trying to scare us with Pakistan's nuclear bomb. We are not afraid of any bomb," he said.

Shah said the BJP has already won 310 seats in the five phases so far. "In the next two phases, all of you together must help us cross 400 seats and make Modi ji the Prime Minister again," he said.

He said PM Modi provided the people of Hamirpur with a ready-made minister, Anurag Thakur, and stressed that Thakur possessed all the qualities of a good leader.

"Wherever I go across the country, people ask me to make their MP a minister. Modi ji has given you a readymade minister. I have known Anurag Thakur for years. You have a great leader in him," said Shah. The Home Minister highlighted the significant development



Home Minister Amit Shah being felicitated by Union minister Anurag Thakur | EXPRESS

in Hamirpur over the last decade, attributing it to the PM's special affection for Himachal and the Himalayas. "Anurag Thakur has also worked with great planning for the development of this area," he said.

Two governments would be formed - one at the Centre and the other in Himachal Pradesh - after the election results are announced on June 4, Shah said, adding that according to his information "Rahul baba will go to Bangkok on June 6 for relaxation."

In his speech, Union minister Anurag Thakur admired the Home Minister for being an excellent organizer and admin-

istrator: "Under his leadership, the BJP has become the largest political party in the world," Anurag said. He said PM Modi took the bold steps to remove Article 370 from Kashmir and implement the CAA. "Naxalism has virtually ended in the country, and a grand Ram temple has come up," he said.

"When Himachal faced a disaster, Modi ji and Amit Shah ji met all our demands, providing us with funds for rural roads, and rural houses," Anurag said. He said the PM also granted 33% reservation to women in the legislatures of the country through the historic Nari Shakti Vandan Act.

Rajasthan minister seeks action over corruption, ignites discord within BJP

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

INTERNAL conflicts within the BJP's Rajasthan unit have surfaced after Agriculture Minister Kirori Lal Meena publicly demanded that Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma take action on issues, such as corruption and paper leaks, in the state, party leaders aware of the development said.

Meena also recently triggered a buzz in political circles when he said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had entrusted him with the responsibility of "securing seven seats".

He vowed to resign if the BJP loses even one of these seats. Although Meena did not specify which seven districts he referred to, political analysts said he was talking about the districts in eastern Rajasthan.

Previously, Meena had made a similar claim regarding Dausa, an eastern district, asserting that he would resign if the BJP lost there. Sharma, although an MLA from Jaipur, hails from Bharatpur. The Congress appears to be mounting a challenge to the BJP in eastern Rajasthan, raising concerns about potential losses for the BJP in Lok Sabha elections in

the region. "Meena's resignation offer is a strategic move to pressure Sharma into taking moral responsibility for any potential electoral setbacks," a political analyst said. However, Meena said in a media interview, "I am not acting against anybody but merely performing my duties."

Adding to the internal strife, minister Krishna Kumar Vishnoi created wrote a letter to CM regarding power supply. Amid soaring temperatures, Rajasthan faces power shortage. Vishnoi asked the CM address power cuts in his area.

The conflict within the BJP in Rajasthan began when the party's high command sidelined two-time CM Vasundhara Raje and favoured first-time MLA Sharma for CM post. Several leaders within the BJP objected to the decision. Sources indicate speculation about Sharma's potential removal from the top post.

However, signals from the BJP leadership suggest that Sharma's position is secure. Recently, PM Modi said during the campaign, affirmed the stability of the Sharma government. Senior BJP leader Rajendra Rathod has denied any rift within the party.

Kangana sweats it out against royal scion

HARPREET BAJWA @ Mandi

AMONG the most watched duels this poll season is the one at Himachal Pradesh's Mandi where Bollywood Queen Kangana Ranaut is cutting her electoral teeth on behalf of the BJP against Vikramaditya Singh of the Congress.

It's like an open air theater where an ebullient but inexperienced candidate is sweating it out against a seasoned neta.

Kangana's glam quotient is high but so is her tendency for loose talk by straying off the script, making headlines for all the wrong reasons. The party is learning to manage the impulsive actor and trying keep her away from harm's way.

Her opponent is a pedigreed minister in the Sukhvinder Singh 'Sukhu' government, as he is a scion of the erstwhile Rampur royal family.

The son of late six-time chief minister Virbhadr Singh, he was the face of intra-party rebellion in the state till Sonia Gandhi personally requested him to enter the fray. That gave him an opportunity to prove his leadership credentials.

Both sides are indulging in name calling as Kangana labeled Vikramaditya 'Chhotu Pappu' - a pejorative linked to party leader Rahul Gandhi - and a spoilt prince. For his part, Vikramaditya called her a comedian and a political tourist.

Kangana is banking on her celebrity image, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pull

and the Ram temple issue. She has support from unexpected quarters - the scion of Kullu Maheshwar Singh, who was a BJP ticket aspirant from Mandi; former Union minister Sukh Ram's grandson Ashray Sharma, who was defeated by the BJP's Ram Swaroop Sharma in the last Lok Sabha polls; and Kargil hero Brig Khushal Singh, who lost to Vikramaditya's mother Pratibha Singh in the 2021 parliamentary bypolls.

The Mandi seat covers six districts and 17 assembly segments. While the upper areas of Lahaul & Spiti, Manali, Kullu, Rampur, Kunnar and Bharamur are inclined towards Vikramaditya, the lower regions like Mandi, Anni, Karsog, Sundernagar and Nachan are tilted towards the BJP.

Mandi is the second largest parliamentary constituency in India after Barmer in Rajasthan. It shares its border with China and has among the three highest mountain passes in the country, Rohtang, Sach and Kunzum.

liametary bypolls.

"When Bollywood considered me an outsider, the BJP chose me to serve the people of Mandi," says Kangana. She tries to connect with the masses by speaking in Mandiyali and sporting the local attire. As for Vikramaditya, he has support from the Samyukt Kisan Manch, since Kangana criticised farmers during their agitation.

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Teen accused's granddad held, sent to police custody in Pune Porsche crash

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

IN a new twist to the Porsche car crash episode, the Pune police on Saturday arrested the grandfather of the 17-year-old involved in the horrific incident that killed two persons. The police said both the teenager's father and grandfather put pressure on the family's driver to take blame for the accident by offering him money and giving threats.

The teenager's grandfather Surendra Agarwal was arrested for "illegal confinement" of the driver, and a court subsequently remanded him in police custody till May 28. The minor's father, in judicial custody in another case registered in the May 19 accident, too was named in the FIR.

"After the accident, the driver gave a statement at the police station that he was at the wheel...But it was revealed that the teen was driving the car," police commissioner Amtesh Kumar told the media.

After the driver left the police station, the teenager's father, realtor Vishal Agarwal and his grandfather whisked him in a car to his house and confined him there, the senior police officer said.

"He was pressured to give a statement," Kumar said. The Agarwal family offered to pay the driver "any amount he quoted," the commissioner said.

Vishal Agarwal and his father were booked under IPC sections 365 (kidnapping) and 368 (wrongfully keeping in confinement).

'Remal' turns into severe cyclonic storm

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE deep depression over the central Bay of Bengal (BoB) has intensified into a severe cyclonic storm, named 'Remal,' on Saturday evening. The storm, named by Oman, is now moving towards the north-northeast.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an 'Orange' warning for the West Bengal coastal region.

The deep depression over the east-central BoB has moved nearly northward at a speed of 12 kmph, intensifying into a cyclonic storm, 'Remal.' This evening, it was centered over the north and adjoining east-central BoB, about 360 km south-southeast of Khepupara (Bangladesh), 350 km south-southeast of Sagar Islands (West Bengal), and 390 km south-southeast of Canning (West Bengal).

THE MASTER OF LIGHT

SHREYAS PANDE

IT is showering honours for India at the Cannes Film Festival 2024. Apart from classics like Manthan (1976) being screened and Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine As Light entering the in-competition section after 40 long years, the festival has now recognised the masterful eye of cinematographer Santosh Sivan. He has been awarded 'The Pierre Angénieux Excellence in Cinematography', an annual tribute given to cinematographers.

For Santosh, his visual style comes from how he saw the world as a child. It feels nostalgic because it emerges from the memories of his native town in Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram. The affinity for visuals ran in his genes. His father, Sivasankaran Nair, was an established film director who also owned a photo studio in the town. Naturally, Santosh would accompany him for his shoots. Under his guidance, Santosh understood the nuances of light and shadow. The beauty of nature left an indelible mark on him.

This can be seen in the stunning landscapes in Mani Ratnam's Roja (1992) that captured the rhythm of the land with an urgency or the dramatic, tangerine hues of the sun setting across the frames in Rajinikanth's Thalapathy (1991). The environment becomes a major motif in his work as seen in the haunting images of the moving train and the dark tunnels in the iconic 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' from Dil Se... (1998). Further, his visuals

beautiful village to find inspiration for his work. However, larger recognition followed after he shot Aamir Khan's gangster drama Raakh (1989). His stark use of light and shadows on Aamir's face is among the major highlights of the film, placing it in the larger context of its grim themes.

Further, it was the Tamil film, The Terrorist (1998) that was written, shot and directed by him, which earned him international acclaim. It told a moving story of a teenage suicide bomber who has a change of heart when she discovers that she is pregnant. It was received well internationally, particularly by actor John Malkovich and film critic Roger Ebert who said that the film was "scripted by the camera". Consequently, cinematographer Michale Chapman, who has shot Martin Scorsese-films like Taxi Driver (1976) and Raging Bull (1980), used scenes from The Terrorist as a reference in his workshops. Later, he recommended

Santosh's name to be included in the prestigious American Society of Cinematographers (ASC). In 2012, the cinematographer became the first person from Asia to be included in the ASC.

The recognition at Cannes is yet another feather in his cap. Santosh joins the prestigious list of other cinematographers who have received the honour in the past including Christopher Doyle (In the Mood for Love, Chungking Express), Edward Lachman (Carol, Far from Heaven), Agnes Godard (Wings of Desire, Beau Travail), Barry Ackroyd (The Hurt Locker, Captain Phillips), and Roger Deakins (Blade Runner 2049, 1917). His life has been about capturing moments in all their authenticity with a graceful shimmering of light and an unerring sculpting in time. All this while, he stood behind the camera to adorn the image. As he becomes the moment now, all lights turn, the lens reflects his smile and as for his images? Well, they rise to the applause.



NEWSMAKER



SHOWTIME FOR GLADIATORS



Kangana Ranaut and Vikramaditya Singh
ILLUSTRATION: MANDAR PAROIKAR

From 9.7% in 2019, Anantnag records highest 53% polling in over 4 decades

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

CONTINUING the trend of high voting in 2024 parliamentary polls, the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat in Jammu & Kashmir, which had in 2019 polls recorded only 9.7% polling, on Saturday recorded the 53% voter turnout, which is the highest poll percentage in the seat in over three decades with people voting without any fear and threat.

Chief Electoral Officer J&K PK Pole said about 53% polling was recorded in the Anantnag LS seat today. The voter turnout is significant given the fact

that till a few years back, south Kashmir was considered the stronghold of militants. It is the highest voter turnout in four decades in the parliamentary seat, which was carved out after the delimitation by including Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu province and taking out Pulwama district from the earlier Anantnag Lok Sabha seat.

In 2019, 9.70% polling was reported from the seat, 28.80% in 2014, 27.10% in 2009, 15.04% in 2004, 14.32% in 1999, 28.15% in 1998, 50.02% in 1996, and 5.07% in 1989. The all-time high voting percentage recorded in



Anantnag constituency is 70.08% in 1984. "This remarkable participation marks a new era of peace and civic engagement in these districts," the CEO said.

Not a single polling station of the 2,338 polling stations set up in five districts reported zero per cent votes. Men and women, elderly and the young thronged the polling stations in all five districts - Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag in south Kashmir and Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu province - of the Anantnag parliamentary seat.

Serpentine queues were seen at the polling stations, where

the men and women were patiently waiting for their turns to vote. "Our vote is vote for change. We have realised that the vote can bring change and through this hope, we are not only reposing faith in Indian democracy but are also hopeful that our vote will ensure better lives for the residents of J&K," said a youth Javed Ahmed, who voted for the first time at a polling booth in Srigufwara in Anantnag district.

Many polling areas in south Kashmir, which were strongholds of separatists, witnessed a good voter turnout for the first time.

Amid violence, Bengal records high 78% voting

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

ONE person was killed in sporadic incidents of violence reported from various parts of West Bengal's Kanthi, Tamluk and Bishnupur constituencies in Phase-VI of the Lok Sabha polls on Saturday. State Election Commission sources said 77.9% of voting was recorded by the evening.

A Trinamool Congress worker reportedly died in Mahishadal, Purba Medinipur district, allegedly by unidentified assailants. The EC received 954 complaints by 11 am, predominantly from political parties who alleged EVM malfunctioning and obstructing polling staff from entering booths.

A mob allegedly chased and attacked BJP candidate from Jhargram, Pranat Tudu. A video of the incident showed a mob hurling stones at Tudu and his convoy. His security personnel swiftly evacuated him. BJP sources said when Tudu reached a village at Garbeta, a group of around 200 Trinamool Congress activists, including women, blocked his vehicle. "First, they started shouting slogans and then suddenly, some protesters started throwing stones at his vehicle," said a BJP supporter.

The attack was so sudden that even the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel escorting Tudu got unnerved initially. The glass window of Tudu's vehicle was smashed and he received minor injuries on his head. The CAPF somehow escorted him out and took him to a primary health centre where he was provided first-aid.

At Debra under Ghatol Lok Sabha constituency, tension mounted after a CAPF jawan was accused of molesting a local woman. The matter was immediately brought to the notice of the office of the chief electoral officer (CEO), who ordered his immediate removal from election duty. The CAPF jawan has also been arrested by the district police.

In Ghatol constituency, clashes erupted between TMC and BJP supporters, with BJP candidate Hiran Chatterjee accusing TMC of impeding the voting process by preventing their agents from entering the booths. In Midnapore, BJP candidate Agnimitra Paul reportedly faced a hostile crowd of TMC activists, resulting in a scuffle. Former Calcutta High Court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay faced protest when he arrived at a polling booth in Tamluk.

Ranchi scores lowest in 61.41% J'khand turnout

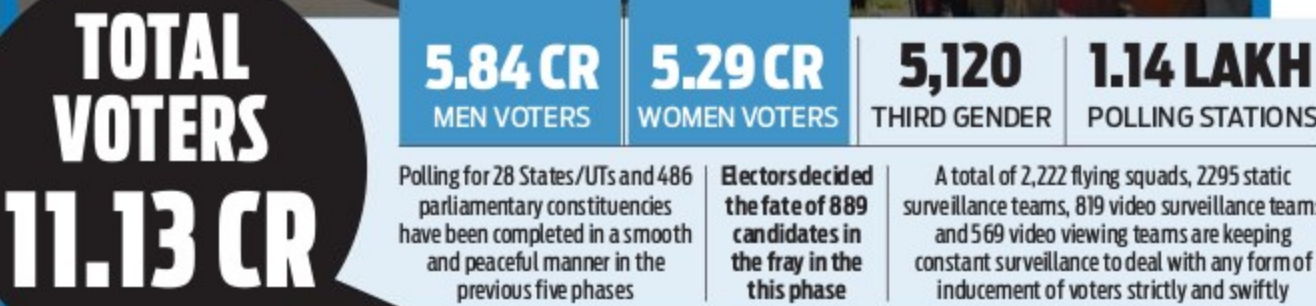
MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

VOTING for the four Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand concluded on Saturday with Giridih recording the highest voter turnout at 64.75 per cent, while Ranchi, the capital city, registered the lowest at 58.73 per cent. Voting took place peacefully in Giridih, Dhanbad, Ranchi, and Jamshedpur. Former cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Governor CP Radhakrishnan, and former CM Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren cast their votes during the third round of polling in Jharkhand.

According to a Jharkhand police spokesperson, the voting was peaceful everywhere. "As of now, no reports of violence or any such incidents have been reported from any of the four Lok Sabha constituencies where polling took place on Saturday. Voting was peaceful everywhere," said Jharkhand Police Spokesperson AV Homkar.

Notably, 93 candidates are in the fray for the four seats where elections were held on Saturday. A total of 61.41 per cent of voting took place in Jharkhand. Among the four seats, the highest voting was in Giridih at 64.75 per cent, and the lowest was in Ranchi at 58.73 per cent. Additionally, 58.90 per cent voting took place in Dhanbad, and 64.04 per cent in Jamshedpur. In Jamshedpur, people faced a lot of trouble due to EVM malfunctioning at booth 288.

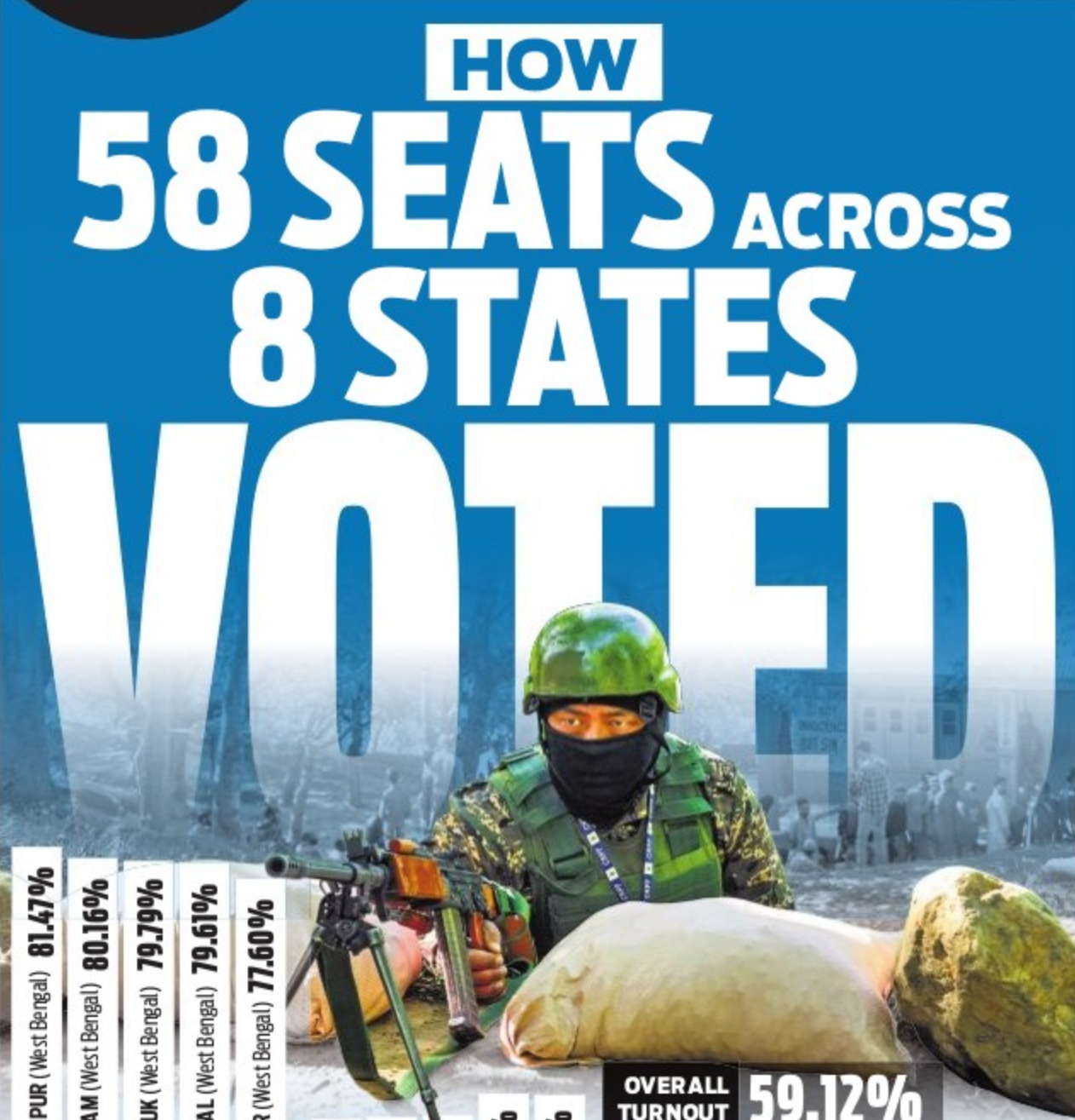
The sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections marks the third round of polls in the state. In Ranchi, Congress's Yashaswini Sahay, daughter of former Union Minister Subodh Kant Sahay, is contesting against BJP's sitting MP Sanjay Seth in a straight fight. In Dhanbad, there is a direct contest between BJP's Baghmara MLA Dulu Mahato and Congress's Anupama Singh, wife of Bermo legislator Kumar Jaimangal. In Jamshedpur, BJP's sitting MP Bidyut Baran Mahato is contesting against JMM's Baharagora MLA Samir Mohanty.



STRICT SURVEILLANCE HAS ALSO BEEN KEPT AT SEA AND AIR ROUTES

20 SPECIAL TRAINS DEPLOYED TO FERRY SECURITY PERSONNEL

A total of 184 observers (66 general observers, 35 police observers, 83 expenditure observers) have already reached their constituencies days before the polls. They serve as the eyes and ears of the EC to exercise utmost vigilance. Additionally, special observers have been deployed in certain states



No bridge, villagers boycott elections in Yamunanagar

HARPREET BAIWA @ Chandigarh

A voter turnout of 55.93 per cent was recorded in Haryana on Saturday till 5 pm in its 10 Lok Sabha seats and polling remained peaceful, poll officials said, adding that the figure could increase as data is being compiled. In 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the overall poll percentage was 70.

Meanwhile, residents of Tapu Majri village in Yamunanagar district which has a total 436 votes, boycotted the polling over their pending demand for construction of a bridge over the Yamuna. "If a bridge is constructed on Yamuna river in the area of our village, we will have to travel only 10 km to reach Yamunanagar," said Ashok Kumar, a villager.

According to the EC data, Sirsa recorded the highest turnout at 59.57 per cent fol-

lowed by Ambala at 58.44 per cent, Kurukshetra (58.38%), Rohtak (58.28%), Bhiwani-Mahendragarh (56.11%), Karnal (55.71%), Sonapat (55.49%), Hisar (53.85%) and Faridabad (53.64%). Gurugram registered the lowest turnout at 51.75%.

There are 2,00,76,768 registered voters, including 94,23,956 women and 467 transgender people, chief electoral officer Anurag Agarwal earlier said. Voting was also held for the by-poll to the Karnal assembly seat where Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is in the fray.

First-time voters expressed their enthusiasm at being part of the exercise. "The youth are a country's backbone and everyone should exercise their right to vote," said a first-time voter in Panipat. Meanwhile, independent MLA from Badshahpur Rakesh Daulatabad died of a heart attack on Saturday.

8 Bihar seats register lower polling than '19

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

AN estimated 55.45% of over 1.49 crore voters exercised their franchise in the sixth phase of elections held in eight Lok Sabha constituencies in Bihar on Saturday. The polling percentage in this phase is about 3.02% less compared to the 58.47% recorded in the sixth phase of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Sharing details of Saturday's voting with the media, Bihar's Chief Electoral Officer H. R. Srinivasa said that the maximum polling was recorded in Paschim Champaran at 59.75%, while Gopalganj recorded the lowest with 50.70% polling. Vaishali recorded a 58.50% voter turnout, followed by Valmikinagar (58.25%), Purvi Champaran (57.30%), Sheohar (56.30%), Siwan (52.50%),

and Maharajanjan (51.27%).

A poll boycott was reported from polling station numbers 272 and 273 under the Valmikinagar Lok Sabha constituency due to the lack of development in the area. In total, 86 contestants, including eight women, were in the fray in the eight constituencies that went to the polls in this phase. CEO Srinivasa said that 217 complaints were received in the control room and were subsequently resolved.

Meanwhile, a polling officer, Kanhaiya Prasad, died in a train accident under the Sugauli assembly constituency. The CEO mentioned that polling in this phase passed off peacefully with no untoward incidents reported, despite some polling stations being located in Naxal-affected areas and the riverine belt.

UP's 54% voting lower than previous 5 phases

NAMITA BAIJAI @ Lucknow

THE sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections recorded a moderate 54.02 per cent voter turnout across 14 seats of Purvanchal in Uttar Pradesh till 6 pm on Saturday, poll officials said. In 2019, the turnout was 54.49 per cent in the same phase.

According to Election Commission data, at least five constituencies surpassed 2019 figure. The sixth phase turnout in UP, however, remained lower than the five phases of the present polls. The phase I logged 61.11 per cent turnout, phase II 55.19 per cent, phase III 57.55 per cent, phase IV 58.22 per cent and phase V 58.02 per cent.

While Ambedkarnagar recorded 61.54 per cent turnout, the highest turnout among 14 seats, against 60.96 per cent in 2019, Phulpur recorded the lowest turnout at 48.97 per cent.

According to UP chief electoral officer Navdeep Rinwa, the highest margin in voter turnout (0.72 per cent) was registered in Shravasti which was 52.04 per cent compared to 52.76 per cent in 2019. The other constituencies which recorded higher voter turnout than 2019 included Bhadohi 54.07 per cent (53.4 per cent in 2019), Phulpur 48.97 per cent (48.46 per cent in 2019) and Allahabad

51.75 per cent (51.67 per cent in 2019), said the CEO.

Pratapgarh recorded 51.60 per cent turnout, which was 53.26 per cent in 2019. The reserved constituency Machhlishahar also recorded a 1.41 per cent drop in turnout - 54.43 per cent 55.84 per cent in 2019. Sant Kabir Nagar registered 1.40 per cent lesser turnout at 52.64 per cent against 54.04 per cent in 2019.

Azamgarh, too, witnessed 1.24 per cent drop with 56.09 per cent against 57.33 per cent in 2019. Sultanpur registered 55.61 per cent voter turnout against 56.28 per cent in 2019. In reserved seats of Lal-

ganj and Domariyaganj, turnout dropped by 0.31 per cent - Lalaganj recorded 54.39 per cent polling and Domariyaganj 51.94 per cent. Basti registered 56.68 per cent polling against 56.84 per cent in 2019. Total 60.26 per cent women voter participation was recorded against 60.71 per cent in 2019.

CEO Rinwa said Gainsari assembly seat, where by-poll was held, recorded 51.10 per cent turnout while the repolling for Farrukhabad Lok Sabha seat at booth number 343 recorded 73.99 per cent turnout. Uttar Pradesh sends the highest number of 80 MPs to the Lok Sabha. So far, voting has been held on 53 seats in the first five phases.



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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd, the Constructive/Physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of **Rs. 2,57,04,968.55 (Rupees Two Crores Fifty Seven Lakhs Four Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Eight and Paise Fifty Five only)** with subsequent interest and expenses thereon from the borrower.

(1) M/s.Sree Kurunche Hayagriva Prop, Mr. Selvaraj C, Having office @ Elements Mall, Ground Floor, Thanisandra Main Road, Nagavara Village, Bangalore – 560 077; **(2) Mr. Selvaraj J C**, S/o. Chinnasamy, Residing @ No. L 274, TNHB Gandhigram South, Senapiratti, Pasupathipalayam, Karur – 639 004. **(3) Mrs. Nachammal S (Guarantor)**, W/o. Mr. Selvaraj J C, Residing @ No.L 274, TNHB Gandhigram South, Senapiratti, Pasupathipalayam, Karur – 639 004.

Whereas the undersigned has decided to put up for E-auction of the immovable properties offers are invited by way of E-Tender for purchase of the following assets on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", AND "WHATEVER THERE IS"** basis on **28.06.2024 between 12.00 Noon to 1.00 p.m.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Schedule A All piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant Land (Non-Agri) situated at No. 15, SF No. 53 & 54, Sairam Garden, behind KVB Ram Nagar staff Quarters, Andankovil East Village, Manmangalam Taluk, Karur, Tamil Nadu admeasuring 2941.50 sq feet, **Bounded on** : East By : Ramnagar Layout, West By : 30 feet North – South Road, North By : 30 feet East-West Road and South By : S F No. 47,50.

Reserve Price – Rs. 53,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs only)

EMD (10% of Reserve Price) : Rs.5,30,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Thirty Thousand only)

Bid Amount Incremental : Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)

Schedule B All piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant Land (Non-Agri) situated at No. 30, SF No. 53 & 54, Sairam Garden, behind KVB Ram Nagar staff Quarters, Andankovil East Village, Manmangalam Taluk, Karur, Tamil Nadu admeasuring 1576.50 sq feet, **Bounded on** : East By: 30 feet North – South Road, West By: S F No. 53, North By: S F No. 53/3 and South By: Plot No. 29.

Reserve Price – Rs. 28,40,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Fourty Thousand only)

EMD (10% of Reserve Price) : Rs.2,84,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand only)

Bid Amount Incremental : Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)

Schedule C All piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant Land (Non-Agri) situated at No. 2, SF No. 578/10A, Pavithram Village, Aravakurichi Taluk, Karur District - 637021 Tamil Nadu, admeasuring 5,242 sq feet, **Bounded on** : East By: 20 feet North – South Road, West By: Property belonging to V. Vishalakshi, North By: Karur to Coimbatore NH Road and South By: Plot No. 3.

Reserve Price – Rs.1,04,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Four Lakhs only)

EMD (10% of Reserve Price) : Rs.10,40,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Fourty Thousand only).

Bid Amount Incremental : Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)

Schedule D : All piece and parcel of the Residential Land with shed at No. 53/1, 53/2, S F No. 420, Indira Gandhi Nagar, Thanthoni Village, Gandhigram South Karur admeasuring 3210 sq feet, **Bounded on**: East By: 30 feet North – South road, West By: Plot No. 16, North By: 60 feet East – West Road and South By: Plot No. 14.

Reserve Price – Rs.60,25,000/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand only)

EMD (10% of Reserve Price) : Rs.6,02,500/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Two Thousand Five Hundred only)

Bid Amount Incremental : Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)

Inspection of the Asset	All working Days – From 27.05.2024 to 27.06.2024 between 11.00 am to 5.00 pm
Last date and time for submitting online Tender & Application Forms	Date: 27.06.2024 Time : 12.00 noon
Date and Time of E-Auction	The E-Auction will take place through portal https://bankauctions.in on 28.06.2024 between 12.00 Noon to 1.00 P.M. with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each till sale is concluded.
Nodal Bank account Name	The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd, Central office in favour of A/c. M/s.Sree Kurunche Hayagriva Account No: 110135100000973, IFSC Code: KVBLO001101.
Contact Person & Phone No	Sri. S R Mahadevan Phone : 99161 09699 / 99167 64888 Email: mahadevansr@kvbmail.com

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.kvb.co.in/Property Under Auction also at the web portal BankAuctions.in or ForeclosureIndia.com of the service provider, M/s. A Closure.

Statutory 30 days' Notice under Rule 8(6) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 24.05.2024
Place: Bangalore

Authorized Officer/Chief Manager,
The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd



239.96 GW

the season's peak power demand India hit on Friday due to soaring mercury levels in various parts of the country

Witnessing Consolidation

Kingfisher Airlines grounded on October 20, 2012

Jet Airways grounded on April 20, 2012
GoFirst grounded on May 3, 2023

Despite a lengthy bankruptcy process, Jet Airways 2.0 is yet to take off and hopes of GoFirst revival have crashed

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

WHEN Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA came to power in 2014, domestic aviation industry was reeling under severe pressure following the grounding of Kingfisher Airlines. Huge losses, piling debts, employee protests and promoter Vijay Mallya fleeing to the United Kingdom made all the wrong headlines for the sector.

Against the backdrop, another private airline - Spicejet - was facing turbulence as its new promoter - media baron Kalanidhi Maran - realised why many billionaires avoid owning an airline. In less than a year since the new government came into power, SpiceJet was sold back to Ajay Singh.

Fast forward to 2024 and the sector is yet out of the woods. In the last 5 years, two major airlines - Jet Airways and Go First - succumbed to financial woes while many smaller players vanished in the covid 19 pandemic.

The big change for the industry, however, has been the privatisation of Air India and the emergence of two strong players. Having made combined orders of more than 1100 planes, the Tata Group-led Air India and IndiGo have set ambitions to define the world's fastest-growing aviation market.

10% CAGR in 10 years

India's aviation industry has witnessed a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10% in domestic passenger traffic in the last 10 years i.e. between FY2014 and FY2024. This growth was supported by a growing economy, improvement in infrastructure and connectivity to regional centres. The number of operational airports doubled from 74 in 2014 to 148 in April 2023.

Kinjal Shah, Vice President & Co-Group Head - Corporate Ratings at ICRA Limited, said that this growth has to be looked at in two parts - pre-pandemic, that is, between FY2014 and FY2020, the domes-



The big change for the industry in recent years has been the privatisation of Air India and the emergence of two strong players

Tata Group-led Air India and IndiGo have made combined orders of more than 1,100 planes

Domestic aviation industry has witnessed CAGR of 10% in domestic passenger traffic in last 10 YEARS -FY14 to FY24

Air India group with its three airlines, is rapidly inching towards the 30% mark in air traffic



IndiGo continues to have a market share of more than 60% in the domestic market

HITS AND MISSES OF AVIATION SECTOR IN 10 YRS

IndiGo and Air India are two major players; other airlines together hold 11% mkt share

tic air passenger traffic reported a CAGR of 15%, while the growth was impacted since FY21 as the restrictions associated with the pandemic stalled passenger movement during FY21 and FY22. The recovery in passenger traffic was significant with a CAGR of 35% between FY22 and FY24.

"However, over the same period, the growth in capacity, as denoted by available seat kilometers or ASKMs grew at a CAGR of 8% and has lagged the passenger traffic growth," added Shah. The main reason for this is the collapse of several carriers.

Pragya Priyadarshini, Vice President at Primus Partners, said that in the past, airlines worked hard to attract passengers, but now they are struggling to add more capacity, which has led to high fares. Most airlines are already operating at 85% and above passenger load capacity, indicating the need for increased capacity to meet demand, added Priyadarshini.

The big misses

While the government's ambitious regional connectivity scheme (RCS) - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) and privatization of highly loss-making Air India are touted as the big positives for the industry, the collapse of numerous air-

lines in a tough regulatory environment remains a big concern. Despite a lengthy bankruptcy process, Jet Airways 2.0 is yet to take off and hopes of GoFirst revival have crashed.

Further, the credit profile of a few existing players remains weak. "While some airlines have adequate liquidity and/or financial support from a strong parent, supporting their credit profiles, the credit metrics and liquidity profile of others will remain under stress over the near term, despite some improvement relative to the last few years," said Shah of ICRA.

Even the much-applauded UDAN scheme has its shortcomings. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in August 2023 had said that only 54 routes or 7% of all awarded routes under UDAN have managed to sustain operations beyond the three-year concession period. CAG had flagged that out of 52% (403 out of 774 routes) of the awarded routes were unable to commence operations. Additionally, the scheme's main goal to provide tickets at affordable prices has been questioned.

Further, the most populous nation's ambition to become a global aviation hub remains a project on paper and more

than 55% of its International travel is still catered by foreign airlines. The recent effort by IndiGo and Air India to induct more wide-body aircraft is likely to reduce foreign airlines' dominance here.

Two strong players

India's aviation market has become a playground of two strong players - IndiGo and Air India Group. While IndiGo continues to have a market share of more than 60% in the domestic market, Air India group with its three airlines, is rapidly inching towards the 30% mark. In April, Air India, Vistara and Air India Express had a combined market share of 28.8%.

"With the consolidation of Air India, Vistara, Air Asia and Air India-Express, it is unlikely for any further consolidation to take place in the near future. However, factors such as market dynamics, regulatory changes, economic conditions, and competition could still drive consolidation in the future but perhaps not on the same scale," said Priyadarshini of Primus Partners.

Within the remaining 11%, Spicejet (4.7%) and Akasa Air (4.4%) have a combined market share of more than 9%. Most market experts believe that while having 2 strong players is good for the industry, this has also led to higher fares due to reduced competition.

"The industry is characterized by high fixed costs. 35-42% of the airlines' expenses, including operating lease payments, aircraft parking charges, airport charges, aircraft maintenance charges, and employee costs are fixed. The industry, however, lately has witnessed improved pricing power, as reflected in the improved yields and the spread between revenue per available seat kilometer - cost per available seat kilometer (RASK-CASK) for the airlines," said Shah of ICRA. The rating agency expects passenger traffic to grow 8-13% in the medium term.



NTPC Secures third Rank at ATD BEST Award 2024

New Delhi: NTPC has achieved an impressive milestone by securing the 3rd rank globally at the ATD BEST Award 2024, the highest ranking among all Indian companies. Notably, NTPC is the only PSU to have received this prestigious award seven times in the past eight years. The accolade was accepted by Ms. Rachana Singh Bhal, CGM (Strategic HR & Talent Management), at a distinguished ceremony held in New Orleans, USA, on 21st May, 2024. The ATD BEST Award, established by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA, is one of the most esteemed international recognitions in the field of Learning and Development (L&D). It honors organizations that leverage talent development as a strategic business tool and demonstrate enterprise-wide success through effective employee development practices. The ranking is determined through a rigorous evaluation and assessment process conducted by international experts of high integrity and global eminence.

Business & Beyond

ESG Research organised Exec Development Program for Capacity Building of Officials

The ESG Research Foundation (ERF) is a Not-For-Profit Organization, registered under DARPAN, NITI Aayog, Govt. Of India, dedicated to promoting the significance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) aspects in business operations within the public and private sectors. The program brought together Officials from PSUs and Bank - ONGC, IOCL, Grid Controller, PetroNet LNG, DFCCIL, NHPC, RECPCDL, SJVN and PNB, etc. It was inaugurated by Sh. Ajay Mittal IAS (Retd.), Former Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, GOI and Former Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt. of H.P. and was the Chairman of Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board.



Ashish Kumar Biswal joined as the Uco Bank's new zonal head of Sambalpur Zone

Sambalpur: Ashish Kumar Biswal has joined as new Zonal Head of Sambalpur Zone of UCO Bank. Prior to this, he was serving as Deputy Zonal Head in Bhubaneswar zone. He has served as branch head in Government Secretariat Branch. He had started his career in UCO Bank as a Probationary Officer in 2006 and has worked in different places and gained vast experience. Biswal is having a degree in M. Tech in agriculture engineering. During his tenure as zonal head in Sambalpur he is likely to give emphasis to corporate credit, CASA deposit and better customer service.



BOB gets regional head

Sambalpur: Debi Prasad Mohanty has joined as the Regional Head of Sambalpur Regional Office of Bank of Baroda. Prior to this, he was heading RRB Mahesana in Gujarat. Mohanty joined BOB in 1999 and worked in different places in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Mumbai Corporate office and Baroda Head Office (Gujarat) in different capacities and gained vast experience. During his tenure as Regional Head, Mohanty is likely to give more focus on agriculture, advance, growth of CASA deposit, quantitative credit and NPA Management.

Vedanta Aluminium unveils Project Kalakriti

Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, has unveiled Project Kalakriti, a traditional art and crafts training initiative aimed at providing sustainable livelihoods for women in Jharsuguda. The project seeks to empower women by equipping them with skills in various traditional and modern art forms.

WILL MUMBAI'S INFRA BOOM MAKE THE CITY MORE LIVEABLE?

GURBIR SINGH

MUMBAI, our financial capital, long neglected, is experiencing a renewed infrastructure boom. After frenetic construction activity, the city has just seen the inauguration of the coastal road. Built at a huge cost of Rs 13,000 crore, the part-underground, 11-kilometre channel connects the extreme south of the island city to downtown Worli, and then onwards to suburban Bandra via the sea-link. This allows car traffic to bypass the worst snarls during peak hours.

The Dharavi slum project, awarded to the Adani Group, is finally seeing movement. If it goes through, the 640-acre slum sprawl will be the city's new Manhattan with high-rise commercial buildings, and residences for over 60,000 families. The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), now christened 'Atal Setu', India's longest 22-km sea bridge, is commissioned, while dozens of glitzy flyovers are promising to make life easier in the megalopolis.

There is stout opposition too. Planners and environmental activists point to lopsided development favouring the top 10% car-using, creamy layer. For the average Mumbaikar, the living densities, the shrinking open spaces and the worsening public transport, has made things more difficult.

Development trigger

A recent brainstorming session led by newly appointed Municipal Commissioner, Bhushan Gagrani, along with retired IAS officer who helmed the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, R.C. Sinha, and architect-activist P K Das, generated important pointers.

Making a presentation at the Mumbai Press Club, Bhushan Gagrani said the slew of infrastructure projects taking off in the city not only aid urban mobility but over time will trigger a socio-economic transformation. What would have happened had the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, built in the teeth of opposition in 2002, not been constructed? he questioned. Today, because of its connectivity, Pune has transformed into a hub for IT, R&D and the auto industry.

Drawing a similar parallel,

Gagrani predicted the Coastal Road and the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) would "transform the real estate market over the next five to ten years, bringing equilibrium to both residential and commercial sectors." The bureaucrat was arguing by connecting the island city to its hinterland, the city's footprint would expand, thereby cooling high real estate prices that are currently riding on the shortage of buildable land.

On the other hand, the approach of another panelist at the discussion, retired IAS of-

tainable growth. Providing more and wider channels for movement of passenger cars does not reduce traffic snarls. It only ensures more cars come on the road, at the expense of public transport. The coastal road, and the burgeoning number of flyovers are examples of supporting increasing private transportation at the expense of buses and train traffic that carry 20 times the passenger load.

P K Das, planner and architect, underlined that in a time of heightened climate change, Mumbai was hurtling towards disaster. The unbridled construction and high density of buildings had turned Mumbai into a 'heat island' significantly lowering the quality of life of ordinary people. The current philosophy was to "build more ...and more", a mania that seemed to think that the more you build, the faster will the city solve its problems of housing and crowding.

This has led to planning and development entirely focused on the 240 sq km of high-density, buildable areas. What is neglected is the city's ecological infrastructure. The failure to integrate the 140 sq kms of waterfronts, mangrove outcrops, and other wetlands and creeks into urban planning "could lead to a bleak future and existential crisis for both the people and the city."

Among the many debates that followed, the big one was on the 'slow death' of the municipalized bus service run by the Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply & Transport Undertaking (BEST). Once the lifeline of Mumbai, the BEST provided efficient and cost effective last-mile connectivity to commuters between home and train junctions, and then finally to their place of work. At peak it had a fleet of nearly 5,000 buses, but over time, and quite deliberately, it is being phased out. It's bus depots are being sold to builders and the fleet now is barely left with about 3,000 buses.

Someone from the audience quoted Gustava Petro, the Mayor of Bogota in 2013: "A developed country is not a place where the poor have cars. It's where the rich use public transport." In Mumbai though, for the votaries of public transport and public spaces, it's still a losing battle.



SOURAV ROY

ficer R C Sinha, was of the hard-nosed bureaucrat. His focus was entirely on project completion, with little stomach for considering social costs or environmental damage. While leading the charge for early completion of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, he revealed how the Dukes Hotel in the Khandala Hills tried to block the work by moving the Bombay High Court against the blasting endangering the hotel structure.

"In reply I gave the hotel notice that we would acquire the hotel property under the Land Acquisition Act, Sinha said. "The hotel owner was on his knees apologizing; and he withdrew his petition."

Sustainable growth

This brainstorming reflects the continuing, sharp debate between development and sus-

Nishant Pitti withdraws bid for bankrupt Go First

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

EASEMYTRIP'S chief executive officer Nishant Pitti on Saturday said he is withdrawing the bid for the bankrupt airline Go First.

"After careful consideration, I have decided to withdraw from the GoAir bid in my personal capacity."

This decision allows me to better focus on other strategic priorities and initiatives that align with our long-term vision and growth objectives," said Pitti, Founder & CEO of the travel port EaseMyTrip.

More than three months back, Busy Bee Airways, majority-owned by Pitti, along with SpiceJet Chief Ajay Singh, had put in a bid for Go First, which is undergoing an insolvency resolution process. It is not immediately known whether Singh would go ahead or withdraw his plans as well.

The latest move by Pitti comes less than a month after the Delhi High Court allowed lessors to take back 54 planes leased to Go First. This order, according to experts, has the capability to derail the revival process of airline as it would leave minuscule assets for the bidders who have shown interest in acquiring the airline.



Following this order, Pitti had said he will consider any necessary adjustments to its proposed offer for the grounded airline after reviewing the court order.

Meanwhile, Pitti's announcement about the withdrawal of the bid also comes a day after EaseMyTrip on Friday reported a consolidated loss of ₹15.07 crore for the March quarter and a full-year profit after tax of ₹103.46 crore.

Go First stopped flying on May 3, 2023, and its plea for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings was admitted by the NCLT on May 10 last year. Apart from Ajay Singh-Busy Bee Airways, Sharjah-based Sky One FZE had submitted a bid for Go First.

On April 8, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) again extended the deadline to complete Go First's insolvency resolution process by 60 days to June 3. Prior to this extension, the deadline was April 4.

MUTUAL FUND

AUM of smaller towns rises to ₹10L cr in Apr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

THE massive inflows into mutual funds, which have grown over 37% in April to cross the ₹57 trillion (₹57 lakh cr) mark, have also spawned an unsung hero — the B30 cities, which are those small cities and towns beyond the top 30 — whose collective AUM has surpassed the ₹10-trillion-mark for the first time in April, gaining 44%.

The assets under management (AUM) of the 45-player mutual fund industry have seen an annual growth of 37% and a monthly growth of 3.6% in April, to ₹57.3 trillion. In FY24, the industry clipped at over 37% to scale past ₹55.01 trillion mark. The total assets of B30 cities, the next 30 growth drivers beyond the top 30 (T30) cities, rose 3.43% to ₹10.16 trillion, to cross the 10 trillion for the first time, in April 2024 from ₹9.83 trillion in the past month, as per an analysis by Icr Ratings.

On an annualised basis, this was a full 44 percent growth over April 2023, while the total assets of T30 centres grew 36%. Of the total AUM as much as 41% still come from Maharashtra and Delhi is a pale 8.4%, and 28 which are collectively known as the T30 cities saw total assets rising 3.69% month-on-month to ₹46.85 trillion in April from ₹45.18 trillion in March.



Ferrari's Charles Leclerc snatched pole position at his home Monaco Grand Prix on Saturday as Max Verstappen could only finish sixth fastest. The 26-year-old Monegasque driver, who has never managed a podium finish at his home race, clocked a best lap of one minute and 10.270 seconds to outpace Australian Oscar Piastri of McLaren by 0.154 seconds.

SHOOTING COACH, IT'S PERSONAL

The coaches, both personal & national, have been the talking point for a while. **Indraneel Das** delves deep into the issue...

WHEN I see him (her coach Jaspal Rana) around, I get courage," Manu Bhaker, one of the most decorated shooters in recent times, said. Rana, a former multiple Asian Games gold medallist, was walking bare-footed on the lawns of a plush heritage hotel in Bhopal. Even though she was not wielding a gun or at the shooting range, he was still keeping a close watch on his ward.

At the sprawling MP Shooting Academy, other personal coaches too were guiding their wards. Deepali Deshpande, one of Jaspal's peers, was there. So was former Commonwealth Games gold medallist Ronak Pandit, who is also a national coach. Some may not have enviable CVs but they are coaches nevertheless. Take the case of Abhishek Rana who has been training Sarabjot Singh since the time Singh was an adolescent.

Most shooters are usually considered recluses; athletes who prefer solitude. Naturally, they are more comfortable with their coaches with whom they share a close bond. Even when shooters are abroad or in a national camp, that invisible hand of the coach would always remain over their heads. With the sport evolving and the number of shooters swelling exponentially, there has been a growth in demand for coaches too. Over the years, they have become an integral part of a shooter's arsenal.

Yet, there have been instances when personal coaches and national coaches drift apart. There have been rivalries, both open and behind the scenes. Sometimes, it has turned nasty too.

Some of the top personal coaches felt that the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) must accept the fact that personal coaches are here to stay. "One cannot ignore personal coaches," said almost all the coaches this newspaper spoke to during the Olympic Shooting Trials in Bhopal recently. The solution, then, could be, that instead of working separately in a cocoon, national and personal coaches can work as a team. They also agreed that all personal coaches cannot be part of the national camp but expertise can be shared. "They (officials and coaches) must respect the personal coaches," Jaspal put it bluntly. "If they respect, then personal coaches too will respect. Personal coaches also have credentials." Deshpande put it succinctly. "The NRAI cannot cut off the national coaches completely," she said after a discussion with her ward Arjun Babuta.

"One has to understand that NRAI is not just the office of the federation. NRAI means all



Deepali Deshpande (centre) had as many as six wards taking part in the OST



Jaspal Rana (C) has been a huge influence on Manu Bhaker (L); Sarabjot Singh

the shooters and the coaches who are working on the ranges. So they are part of the ecosystem. When you talk about senior national camp, the shooters have come up with personal coaches. Whatever information the personal coach has about that shooter, why not use it for the better performance of the shooters? When a shooter gets out of the team, where do they go? They go to the personal coaches. You cannot cut them off. There has to be a coordinated effort. One cannot say that we should have only a national coach or a personal coach."

Despite being a personal coach now, Deshpande, like Jaspal, has experienced the other side too. Both had been part of the national junior/senior programme for a considerable period. "When I was the national coach, I used to be in touch with personal coaches. The personal coaches also would know what our plans were."

Pandit had another perspective. "The personal coaches must work together," he said. "They also must shed their ego. What is the primary objective of the coaches? That the shooters excel and win medals for the country. The same is the target of the personal coaches as well as the national coaches. Instead of working individually, it will be prudent for both to work together. They should respect each other."

He felt there should not be a case of one competing against the other. He felt personal coaches also should share details with the national coaches. Jaspal presented an interesting allegory. "There has always been a personal coach and there is one with the shooters because one person cannot be travelling with the shooter all the time. So the national coach is like a principal. The principal is not involved with students all the time. So there is a

class teacher. And a class teacher doesn't teach all the subjects. So there is a subject teacher. There is a team that works. If there is no coordination between the principal and the class teacher, the link is over. If there is no understanding between the class teacher and the subject teacher, it is finished. So it is teamwork. If the federation and the government cannot get it done, we pay the price all the time. Or we do what the Chinese do. You have to do it or face the music. Or let one person take the responsibility, accept the defeat and failure, or you celebrate the victory. That does not happen. Where are the 10-12 shooters who have been part of the last Olympics? Where are they? Did you look after them? Are they here at the trial? Where did your talent go? But nobody will take the responsibility."

The NRAI on the other hand said it's a non-issue. "There is no issue here," said Kanwar Sultan Singh, secretary general of the NRAI. "As far as personal coaches are concerned, we have a policy where the shooter has to declare their history including personal coaches. We keep a record. Our coaching system is a complete blend of mind and sports sciences support. We are focussed towards the Olympics. We have a structure where we have national and chief coaches and there is a high performance director (HPD). If there is a declaration by a shooter and he or she needs the assistance of a personal coach, we have no objection. There are rules of engagement. This is training for Team India and not for individual shooters. Some of the top personal coaches have accepted the guidelines."

"They can sit down with the HPD and share their plans and tell the HPD that this person has this problem. All of them sit down and chart out the path to excellence," he said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Shreyas seeks IPL balm after recent setbacks

GOMESH S @ Chennai

ON the face of it, Shreyas Iyer does not come across as someone who has filters. When you look at him, it is not hard to guess the kind of mood he is in. He doesn't appear to have the kind of emotions Virat Kohli routinely goes through in a match. The Kolkata Knight Riders captain rarely loses his cool during the game. It's more like, 'I am not worried about what you think of me,' bravado, which is evident when he walks into any room.

The press conference room on a humid Saturday evening at the MA Chidambaram Stadium was no different. Pat Cummins, his opposite number, and he were doing some small talk before the media interaction began and it did not take long for Iyer to break the ice.

Cummins was asked about the dew factor and what he would do if he won the toss in the final on Sunday, and before even the Australian could answer, Iyer chipped in. "Good question for me," he laughed, making Cummins turn to him and quip, "What are you going to do?" And the room let out a laugh. It was not the only such moment during the presser. A couple of questions on Cummins, once again, was asked about the Chennai surface and while answering the query, he mentioned, "There was heaps of dew (during Qualifier 2)," before continuing. Shortly after, when someone mentioned that there was not much dew on Friday, Iyer interrupted laughing. "Liar... I said, you liar," once again leaving everyone with a bit of a laugh.

That, in essence, sums up Shreyas as an individual. No



Kolkata Knight Riders captain Shreyas Iyer (L) and Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper Pat Cummins on the eve of the IPL final in Chennai, on Saturday | ASHWIN PRASATH

FINAL FRONTIER

WITH SUNRISERS HYDERABAD TAKING ON KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS IN THE SUMMIT CLASH, A LOOK...

Cummins vs Gambhir

Behind every successful team, there is one galvanising figure. For KKR, it is mentor Gautam Gambhir and for SRH, its captain Pat Cummins. Known for their tactical nous, both Gambhir and Cummins have devised a strategy that gives their respective team the best chance to win. Who will come out on top on Sunday?

Eyes on Varun, Narine

The last time KKR came to Chennai they struggled on a slowish surface against a team that is better suited for the conditions. This time, however, all eyes will be on Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarty as they go up against one of the most explosive batting line-ups in the season.

What about pitch?

It's pitch No. 4 at Chepauk, which has been used only once this season — Chennai Super Kings vs Punjab Kings. While that game was played at the start of May, with dew playing a significant role, it will be interesting to see how this one plays out considering there was no dew during Qualifier 2.

Kolkata Knight Riders vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, Chennai

Live on Star Sports and JioCinema, 7.30PM

drama, not thinking twice to speak his mind irrespective of the occasion. It was the same when he was asked about the rollercoaster ride he has been on since the ODI World Cup. He

was a prolific run-scorer before the South Africa trip. Post that though, he was dropped during the England series at home.

Shortly after, he was axed from the BCCI central contract

Set for grand finish as Knights meet Sunrisers

dom is that you bat first in a final, Cummins opted to downplay its importance.

"Yeah, we'll have another look (at the wicket) on Sunday, work it out. But yeah, it doesn't really bother us too much. I think back in the day I used to think about batting first and putting runs on the board. I think teams are probably less worried about chasing nowadays than maybe they were back in the day," the Australian said.

Iyer insisted that he was not sure whether 'dew' would be a factor. "Looking at the wicket on Saturday, I feel it's completely different from what they played on Friday (Qualifier 2). It's a red soil and on Friday I feel it was,

if I'm not wrong, it was a black soil wicket. So we don't know how the wicket is going to play on Sunday. And also looking at the match from the TV, we thought the dew factor would play a great role, but it didn't," the Mumbaiaika said.

"To be honest, I am not thinking about the stats. But it is all the skills and the mindset. Which team is, you know, of a great mindset and how they play based on the skills. Obviously the best team is going to win," he added. Cummins has the experience of playing in a final in the other formats of the game. He is also a player who uses data. "It's been a great couple of years, but I hadn't captained any

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

ALL roads will lead to Chepauk on Sunday evening as Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will battle it out against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the final of the Indian Premier League.

The Pat Cummins-led side will be high on confidence after thumping Rajasthan Royals by 36 runs in the Qualifier 2 played on Friday. KKR were the first side in the final on the back of their win over SRH in Qualifier 1. After a close look at both the sides, one gets the feeling that KKR has a definite edge over SRH.

SRH have a few quality batters in their ranks, but bowling is one area where they are weak. However what will be of paramount importance for the high voltage clash is the surface. The decider will be played on Pitch No 4. It promises to be full of runs. While conventional wis-

Sindhu one step away from title in Malaysia

AGENCIES @ Kuala Lumpur

DOUBLE Olympic medallist PV Sindhu earned a shot at the Malaysia Masters crown after making it to the women's singles final with a come-from-behind win over Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan. Fifth seed Sindhu, who has not won a title in two years, rallied her way to prevail 13-21, 21-16, 21-12 against World No 20 Busanan in a marathon semifinal that lasted 88 minutes to close in on the BWF World Tour Super 500 crown at the Axiata Arena.

It was her 18th win over Busanan, who has beaten the Indian only once in her career back in the 2019 Hong Kong Open. World No 15 Sindhu, who will eyeing her third Olympic medal at the Paris Games in two months time, now faces second seed and World No 7 Wang Zhi Yi of China in the summit clash. Sindhu had lost to Wang at the Arctic Open last year but has defeated the Chinese twice in three meetings. A silver and bronze medallist in the last two editions of the Olympics, Sindhu seems to have found her mojo back as she dished out some attacking badminton this week. It has been a while since Sindhu has defeated the big guns such as Carolina Marin, Tai Tzu Ying, Chen Yu Fei and Akane Yamaguchi — whom she is expected come across during the Paris Olympics.

Garnacho & Mainoo score as Man Utd shock Man City 2-1 to secure FA Cup

AGENCIES @ London

ERIK ten Hag made a convincing case to be spared the sack as Manchester United upset Manchester City to take the FA Cup with a shock 2-1 victory in Saturday's final.

Ten Hag was reportedly set to be dismissed regardless of the result at Wembley after a troubled campaign that even the United manager described as "terrible" this week.

But United's hierarchy might be having second thoughts after Ten Hag's tactical masterclass ruined City's history bid. City were hot favourites to



Man United's Alejandro Garnacho (c) rejoices after scoring on Saturday | AFP

win a second successive Premier League and FA Cup double. Yet Ten Hag found a way to neutralise Pep Guardiola's side as first half goals from Alejan-

dro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo put United on course to win the FA Cup for the first time in eight years. Jeremy Doku squeezed an 87th minute strike past Andre Onana's weak attempted save but it was too late to rescue City.

Having ended a turbulent season on a high note, if Ten Hag's two-year reign does end, his exit would provoke memories of fellow Dutchman Louis van Gaal's Old Trafford departure.

Van Gaal was fired just two days after United's FA Cup final victory against Crystal Palace in 2016.

Compound archers shine

AGENCIES @ Chennai

THE Indian women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami grabbed its third successive Archery World Cup gold medal, while the mixed team added a silver at the stage two event on Saturday.

The World No 1 Indian compound team dominated Turkey's team right from the first end and sealed the gold, maintaining a healthy six-point margin (232-226) in a lopsided final.

In the compound mixed team final, the USA made a remarkable comeback to win the gold and maintain their supremacy. Jyothi and Priyansh rooted to a two-point lead by shooting a near-flawless 39 points out of a maximum 40 in the first end. But they struggled for consistency.

Archer excels on England comeback

BIRMINGHAM: JOFRA Archer featured in his first competitive match in more than a year as his comeback to national duties went off with a hitch in a typically commanding show. He picked up 2/28 off his four overs as England beat Pakistan 23 runs in the second match of their T20I series.

Brief scores: England 183/7 in 20 ovs (Buttler 84, Jaks 37, Shaheen 3/36, Imdad 2/19, Rauf 2/32) bt Pakistan 160 in 19.2 ovs (Babar 32, Fakhar 45, Ali 2/26, Topley 3/41, Archer 2/28).

Oly qualifier: Boxer Abhimanyu advances

BANGKOK: National championships bronze medallist Abhimanyu Loura displayed his never-say-die attitude to pack off Bulgaria's Kristiyan Nikolov in a thrilling 80kg category first-round clash in the Boxing World Qualifiers for Paris Olympics here on Saturday. Loura made a slow start before quickly switching gears to get the nod from the judges. Abhinash Jamwal (63.5kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg) will be in action on Sunday.

Senthilkumar, Abhay bow out in quarters

NEW DELHI: National champion Velavan Senthilkumar fought hard against top seed and World No 8 Tarek Momen of Egypt before losing in the quarterfinals of the prestigious \$53,500 QSF 3 squash, a PSA World Tour Bronze event, in Doha. World No 55 Senthilkumar won the second game after a close opener and the experienced Momen won the next two to advance with a 11-9, 8-11, 11-4, 11-8 victory on Friday. The other Indian in fray, Asian Games medallist Abhay Singh, ranked 67 in the world and playing his maiden World Tour quarterfinals, went down to third seed and World No 15 Eain Yow Ng of Malaysia 11-6, 11-9, 11-4.

DJOKOVIC VS ALCARAZ AND OTHERS

Granted the Serb has emerged on the right side of the question plenty of times but this really seems to be the end of the end for the most decorated men's Major player in history. He's without a title in 2024 and appears to have ceded ground to the main challengers, including Carlos Alcaraz, Jannik Sinner and Daniil Medvedev. One of those three appear primed to walk away with the title.

SELECT MATCHES ON SUNDAY

Men: Stan Wawrinka vs Andy Murray, Taro Daniel vs Andrey Rublev
Women: Lucia Bronzetti vs Naomi Osaka, Jelena Ostapenko vs Jaqueline Cristian

2.30 PM, Sony Sports Networks

CAN ANYBODY CHALLENGE SWIATEK?

The short answer is probably not. She triumphed in both Madrid and Rome, losing only two sets in the process. The slightly longer answer is she could be run close by the likes of Elena Rybakina and Aryna Sabalenka. But in terms of genuine challenges for the Pole, there aren't too many. Forget trouble shooting, right now she's so good she doesn't even have to troubleshoot.

Paris Calling

WITH THE FRENCH OPEN BEGINNING ON SUNDAY, A LOOK AT SOME OF THE TALKING POINTS FROM THIS YEAR'S EVENT.

NADAL'S LAST DANCE?

Rafael Nadal hinted that this may or may not be his time out at the event he has come to dominate in the 21st century. With his body in a constant state of repair, do not be surprised if he does decide to walk away. The more immediate question is whether he can survive a R1 meeting with Alexander Zverev.





T K VINEETH @ Kochi

EVEN before Iran officially confirmed the death of its president Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash, celebrations had broken out in some cities with Iranians critical of his oppressive regime distributing sweets and bursting crackers. This was not surprising as Raisi, known for his ultra-conservative views, had been accused of enforcing repressive laws to brutally suppress political dissent as well as women's rights.

During his previous stint in the judiciary, he had allegedly ordered the execution of thousands of political prisoners, mostly leftists, at the behest of the then Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

More recently, he was blamed for stamping out violent protests that erupted in the aftermath of the death of a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, Mahsa Amini, who was fatally assaulted by the country's morality police for not wearing a headscarf. The shocking incident caught international attention and Raisi's regime was widely panned for its regressive policies.

The unexpected death of Raisi, however, doesn't mean the end of Iran's theocratic rule. Inchoate hopes of progressive Iranians that the winds of change may finally sweep across the Islamic Republic remain muted as June 28 has been set as the date for snap polls to choose the next hardliner president, who will continue to implement Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's policies.

Slow rise

Raisi's ascent to the president's position was slow and steady. A Muslim jurist, he served in several positions in Iran's judicial system, including as prosecutor for the provinces of Karaj, Hamadan and Tehran. He got his biggest break during his stint in the Tehran "death committee" in 1988, carrying out executions of political prisoners. While it earned him the infamous moniker 'Butcher of Tehran' and accusations of crimes against humanity, his career graph shot up after the controversial stint. He became deputy chief justice in 2004, attorney general in 2014, and chief justice in 2019 — a position Raisi held till he became the country's president in 2021.

He ran for president in 2017 but lost to moderate incumbent president Hassan Rouhani. Raisi contested again in 2021 and won amid allegations of foul play and rigging. However, he was the favourite of the Supreme Leader and surmounted the opposition easily. Given the clout he enjoyed unlike previous presidents, many experts believed he was being considered to succeed Khamenei as Supreme Leader.

Supreme Leader's shadow

Technically, the president's position is sec-

ond only to the Supreme Leader but the hierarchy of Iran's power structure shows a different picture. The Supreme Leader keeps with himself all strategic and sensitive portfolios, leaving the president with rudimentary domestic affairs. Also, a superbody called the Guardian Council, a 12-member panel comprising six clerics picked by the Supreme Leader and six Muslim jurists nominated by the Chief Justice — who in turn is directly appointed by the Supreme Leader — sits on top of the president. The Council can veto any bill passed by the parliament if they are not to the liking of the Supreme Leader. For example, bills on reforms and women's rights passed by elected members are routinely shot down by the Council.

Ministers for important portfolios such as defence, intelligence, science, interior, and foreign affairs are directly picked by the Supreme Leader, who can also dismiss any minister or vice-president regardless of the opinion of the parliament. As foreign policy is handled by the Supreme Leader's office, the foreign minister's role is limited to protocols and ceremonial events. Ambassadors to Arab countries are appointed by the Quds Corps, which reports directly to the Supreme Leader. On the other hand, all the appointments of the president are subject to approval by the Supreme Leader.

Khamenei, the current Supreme Leader, has been at the helm for more than three decades, and has made final decisions on the economy, foreign policy, education, and almost everything else that matters for the country. He has not hesitated to use his power to fire, and reinstate, presidential appointees. In short, Iran's president doesn't have full control over the government as it is the Supreme Leader who functions as the head of state. The Supreme Leader's decrees are final and binding. In this context, Raisi's death won't really create a power vacuum in Iran.

Sham election

Presidential elections in Iran were not due until next year, but the tragic death of Raisi kicked in the constitutional provision that stipulates that the country can't go without an elected president for more than 50 days. In the absence of the president — due to death, illness or dismissal — the Supreme Leader gave first vice-president Mohammad Mokh-

about a new trade war between the US and China this year, though what happens next year remains uncertain. The latest tariffs have been long anticipated and involve a relatively modest amount of \$18 billion vs \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods that already face tariffs. They are unlikely to substantially impact Chinese exports or fuel US inflation, as the US does not heavily import these goods, and also because some tariffs are phased over two years beginning 2025.

Electric cars have, but new energy products like batteries and electric cars comprise a negligible share of China's overall exports to the US. For instance, in 2023, solar cell exports to the US stood at \$3.35 million, or a mere 0.1% of China's total solar cell exports, while solar panel exports stood at \$13.15 million, or 0.03%.

That said, the medical products category may see some turbulence. In 2022, China exported \$30.9 billion worth of medical supplies to the US, accounting for about one-fifth of its total medical exports. Of this, the US imported nearly \$640 million of gloves, masks and syringes from China and the US government sought comments from stakeholders including consumers on whether a proposed 25% duty on medical masks, gloves and a planned 50% tariff on syringes should be even higher.

The other large category, making up \$13.2 billion of the targeted imports from China in 2023, includes lithium-ion batteries, according to the US Census Bureau data. Duties of 25% are due to start in 2026 on the \$10.9 billion non-vehicle lithium-ion battery category, which has grown quickly and is now the third-largest US import category from China after smartphones and personal computers, according to reports.

WHY TRAGIC DEATH OF IRANIAN PRESIDENT IS NOT A GAME CHANGER

WHODUNIT

Most Iranians reacted with shock and disbelief after news broke of their president's helicopter crash. Rumour mills churned out conspiracy theories that the country's enemies — Israel and the US — could be behind it. Such theories gained some traction given Iran's undeniable role in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and its retaliatory attack on Israel in response to the killing of its military commanders stationed at its embassy in Syria.

However, no proof has emerged so far linking Israel or the US to the accident. Israel's stated policy is not to confirm or deny its role in such cases. This time, though, Israeli media quoted official sources as saying that Tel Aviv has nothing to do with the crash. The US, on its part, rushed to express condolences though Secretary of State Antony Blinken later clarified that the US is "definitely not grieving over his death" and that the people of Iran "are probably better off... bearing in mind the horrific acts in which he was involved as a judge and president."

Some Iran watchers flagged the possibility of an internal angle. Raisi was one of the two potential candidates for the Supreme Leader's position. The other candidate is incumbent Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's son Mojtaba, who is said to nurse tall ambitions. Mojtaba, 55, is said to have participated in the Iran-Iraq war during 1987-88 and wields considerable influence over his father in policy decisions. After Raisi's unexpected death, Mojtaba remains the only known contender for the top post.

INITIAL PROBE FINDINGS

Meanwhile, Iran has not blamed any external forces for the accident so far. Late on Thursday night, Iran's investigators issued a statement saying the president's helicopter appears to have caught fire soon after the crash, and that there was no sign of any attack. It said the copter followed the pre-determined flight path to the dot and an analysis of the communication between the crew and the control tower just before the crashed threw up nothing suspicious. The last communication was recorded 90 seconds before the crash. The investigators said they will disclose more details after the probe is complete.

Raisi and his entourage were en route to East Azerbaijan province when their helicopter crashed in a mountainous area last Sunday. Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and the Supreme Leader's aide Mohammad Ali Ale-Hashem were also on board the doomed helicopter.

Raisi was laid to rest on Thursday in his hometown Mashhad.

SUNITHA NATTI @Hyderabad

AFTER a period of relative calm, concerns over a potential US-China trade war have surfaced, yet again. Last week, US President Joe Biden announced significant tariffs on a range of Chinese products stretching over seven categories including semiconductors, electrical vehicles, critical minerals, solar cells and essential health equipment like medical gloves, syringes and needles. While products like electric vehicles will attract 100% tariff — four times higher than the prevailing tariffs — others like photovoltaic cells used to make solar panels saw tariffs double to 50% from 25%. Likewise, steel and aluminum tariffs went from 0 to 25%.

In all, the new round of tariffs, phased over two years through 2026, will affect \$18 billion, or just 4% of total Chinese imports to the US. These are over and above the existing tariffs imposed by Biden's Republican predecessor Donald Trump on \$300 billion worth of Chinese products. Even though the US-China trade war kicked off way back in 2018, Chinese imports continue to flood the US market. In 2023, the US imported \$427 billion in goods from China and exported \$148 billion to China, widening the trade gap.

It's interesting to see how Chinese imports surged over the past three decades. Unbelievably, there was absolutely no trade between the US and China for 30 years following the formation of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Trade slowly began during the 1990s, when the Chinese economy opened up, but the sharpest leap happened during the 20th century. Subsequently, the value of US goods imports from China rose from \$100 billion in 2001 to \$427 billion in 2023.

It was only after 2016 that Washington felt the fallout of Chinese dominance and began imposing tariffs ranging from 10% to 25%, with the average tariff rate standing at 19%. In contrast, the latest round of tariffs are limited both in scale and size, indicating the government's calculated effort to avoid significant economic disruptions.

Will it lead to a full-scale trade war?

Considering the limited impact of the latest tariffs, analysts say, there's little to worry

While the previous tariffs applied to a wide range of goods, the new tariffs seem targeted, focusing on strategic sectors, particularly clean energy and semiconductors. The strategy, perhaps, aims at balancing the need to protect national interests with a desire to avoid unnecessary economic disruptions. By maintaining pressure on critical sectors while limiting the



WHIFF OF A FRESH US-CHINA TRADE WAR

overall economic impact, the Biden administration's current tariff policy, analysts say, aims at safeguarding the US interests while mitigating the risk of escalating global trade tensions.

Will China retaliate?

The Chinese Embassy in Washington was quick to respond saying that its government will take all measures necessary to defend

our rights and interests'. It added that the tariff hike will not only disrupt normal economic and trade cooperation between China and the US, but also significantly drive up the cost of imported goods, inflict more loss on American companies and consumers, and make the US consumers pay even more.

Beijing may impose reciprocal tariffs on major US exports such as agricultural products, pharmaceuticals and aircraft. For its part, China too anticipated the incoming tariff increases and though retaliation is expected, it'll likely be relatively minimal, and unlikely to escalate trade tensions.

One of the reasons for such a measured response includes China's fragile economy and Beijing's all-out attempts to restructure it. China is a powerhouse with its vast domestic market, developed production, low-cost and highly competitive products. But post-Covid, Chinese economy is facing challenges because of low domestic demand, long-lasting real estate crisis and deepening debt. Despite recent efforts to spur domestic growth, there has been little headway.

With household spending and a struggling real estate market, manufacturing for export markets offers one of the brightest business avenues, but given the domestic and export market challenges, China will likely prioritise economic stability over aggressive retaliation.

Who's benefiting then?

There's no denying that US consumers benefited from cheap Chinese imports, like other countries. A 2019 study found that increased trade with China boosted the annual purchasing power of the average US household by \$1,500 between 2000 and 2007. For China, the gains from trade with the US and the rest of the world have been tremendous. Since 2001, the Chinese economy has grown over five-fold, adjusted for inflation, and is now the world's second largest economy.

But signs of protectionism are increasing in the West as the seemingly unstoppable Chinese dominance is affecting domestic producers. Biden also claimed that the Chinese government has been investing state funds in various Chinese companies for years, spanning industries and giving heavy subsidies allowing Chinese firms to sell cheap. For instance, the US is investing

ber temporary charge to lead the nation and start the process to hold snap election to pick the next president.

Under Iran's law, presidential aspirants must have certain qualifications and meet the procedural requirements. Only Iranian nationals with demonstrable credentials, including administrative experience, piety and conviction in the principles of the Islamic Republic can run for president. The term of the president is four years, and one is not allowed to contest for more than two consecutive elections.

Also, the presidential election is not for everyone. Only those candidates whose names have been cleared by the Guardian Council make it to the ballot. Women are not explicitly banned from contesting, but they have never been allowed to enter the fray by the all-male Council. According to the Iranian constitution, the contest for the post of president is open to *rijale siyasi*, an Arabic-Farsi term whose meaning can be 'religious and political elite' or 'religious and political men' depending on who is interpreting. It is another matter that a woman president may not be able to usher in radical changes at will because it is the Supreme Leader who calls the shots.

A dozen fixers

The 12-member Guardian Council is supposed to scrutinise each presidential candidate's merit and suitability to be the Supreme Leader's executive. Their understanding and appreciation of the Islamic values, as interpreted by the Council, also come into play. In the 2021 election which Raisi won, the Council had ruthlessly disqualified over 600 candidates, leaving only seven on the ballot. Curiously, three of the seven men standing also pulled out days before the election, making it pretty much a pre-determined outcome in favour of Raisi.

Among those disqualified in 2021 were prominent candidates such as former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, incumbent first vice-president Eshaq Jahangirim, and former parliament speaker Ali Larijani. The rejections had triggered a controversy and many, including Ahmadinejad, called for boycott of the presidential election. The voter turnout was an abysmal 48% — the lowest in four decades.

Critics of the Islamic Republic claim the presidential elections are a sham as the Guardian Council eliminates competition even before the polls, so that their man gets elected no matter what.

heavily in clean energy tax subsidies to develop domestic EV solar and others, while China's state-driven excess production threatens the viability of US companies. Hence, the tariffs, which are meant to protect American jobs from a feared flood of cheap Chinese imports.

China has also been accused of employing anti-competitive tactics, forcing foreign companies to transfer their technology to operate in China. Moreover, as Washington reasoned, the decision on additional tariffs was made due to unacceptable risk for the US economic security. In fact, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said she was pushing for G7 allies to jointly push back on China's industrial policies and necessarily mirroring the new US tariffs.

What's in it for India?

Indian exports to the US stood at a mere \$77.5 billion in FY24, 1.32% lower than \$78.54 billion in FY23. Experts say a potential US-China trade war offers both good news and bad, with some sectors benefiting, while others not so. Beijing offers significant subsidies on more of these products, leading to surplus production, exceeding domestic and even regular export demand. Often they flood the global markets with surplus products at unreasonably low prices, forcing domestic producers out of business in many countries, including India.

Take steel. Weak domestic demand is pushing the world's largest steel producer China to offload surplus production into Indian markets at cheaper prices. Most Chinese products are sold at unreasonably low prices in global markets, thanks to heavy subsidies by the Chinese government.

That said, Indian firms could benefit from fresh business opportunities in sectors where India has a foothold, such as medical products, including face masks, PPE, syringes and needles, medical gloves, aluminum, iron and steel. Ramping up production and exports of these in-demand products could enhance its trade footprint in the US market.

Though emerging areas like electric vehicles and semiconductors offer tremendous potential, currently, India is a net importer. Until we commence and ramp up production, India may not be able to capitalise on the opportunity.

